

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul crackdown

SEOUL, South Korea, May 8. (AP): Police arrested a dissident leader today as part of a crackdown on anti-government groups, while the Defence Ministry warned it would block strikes in key industries.

Police announced the arrest of Lee Chang-ho, a leader of the nation's main opposition, the United National Democratic Movement, on charges of violating national security laws. Officials said Lee had supported Communists, North Korea, and organised strikes and violent demonstrations.

Post robbery

AVELLINO, Italy, May 8. (Reuter): Five armed men seized the equivalent of more than \$4 million in cash from a post office in southern Italy today.

Police said the gang tricked their way into the main provincial office in the town of Avellino in a hijacked post office van and then forced staff at gunpoint to load the vehicle with cash and cheques. Police found the van and its hijacked driver abandoned a few km (miles) away and said the gang had fled in cars.

Song contest

SAN REMO, Italy, May 8. (AP): Police have been investigating allegations that some singers had to pay bribes of up to \$85,000 to perform in the San Remo Festival, Italy's most popular pop song contest.

Court sources said today that the results of the two-month investigation by the Carabinieri, Italy's paramilitary police, have been given to Ugo Guidicandrea, the chief prosecutor in Rome who will decide whether to file charges.

Police said the charges under consideration include extortion and swindle.

Cholera kills 23

DAR ES SALAAM, May 8. (AP): A cholera epidemic in central Tanzania has killed 23 people within the last three months, the official news agency reported yesterday.

Shihab said the outbreak began early January around the district capital of Singida, 560 kms (347 miles) west of the Indian Ocean port of Dar Es Salaam. At least 35 people had also been hospitalised, the news agency said.

Burmese attack

MAE SOT, Thailand, May 8. (AP): Burmese troops attacked rebel bases near the Thai frontier and crossed into Thailand at one point in the fighting, Thai military sources said today.

About 30 Burmese soldiers and 10 guerrillas were reported killed and more than 70 wounded on both sides when about 2,500 troops attacked Karen stronghold at Wan Kha and Ban Wang Takian yesterday.

Electronics ban

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): The US government says it might prohibit airline passengers from taking aboard portable computers, tape players, hair dryers and other electronic devices as a stopgap measure against terrorist bombings.

The ban, covering items carried by hand or in luggage, would prevent such items from being used to smuggle plastic explosives aboard planes until sophisticated bomb-detection devices can be installed at high risk airports around the world.

Secrets act

LONDON, May 8. (AP): New legislation to replace the present Official Secrets Act dating from 1911, which will cut down on some of the government's present sweeping powers but tighten up in other areas, completed its passage through Parliament Tuesday night.

The new measure now awaits only the formality of royal assent, which as a constitutional monarch Queen Elizabeth II cannot refuse, before becoming law later this year, although no date for this has been announced.

Explosion

JOHANNESBURG, May 8. (AP): A bomb exploded at the home of a National Party Member of Parliament, causing extensive damage, but no injury to his wife and daughters, who were asleep at the time, police said today.

"It was the first terrorist attack on the home of a white Member of Parliament," government-run Radio South Africa said today after the explosion at the house of B.L. "Boy" Gedenhuys in Randfontein Park, west of Johannesburg.

Talks refused

BEIJING, May 8. (AP): Government officials today refused to begin talks immediately with an independent group of university students formed after weeks of unprecedented pro-democracy demonstrations, the students said.

A group of journalists working for state-controlled media but inspired by the protests for freedom planned to seek their own talks with propaganda and publishing officials to push for an easing of press restrictions.

Electoral victory

LA PAZ, Bolivia, May 8. (AP): the governing party candidate today declared an upset election victory over a former military dictator, but the newly chosen Congress will have final word on who becomes president.

Direct election occurs only when a candidate wins more than 50 percent of the total vote, and no one did.

Appeal for cash

OXFORD, May 8. (AP): Britain's oldest museum, the Ashmolean in the university city of Oxford, launched an appeal today for £3.2 million (\$5.3 million) to cope with a financial crisis.

Dr Christopher White, the director, said funds were urgently needed to offset an annual deficit of £95,000 (\$158,650) and avoid regular closing of galleries, staff reductions and imposing admission charges. He said lack of money had already forced the museum to close on Mondays.

'He was telling him do it, do it. If you don't do it, you're going to pay with circumstances in hell.'

Cult leader wanted to die

De Leon killed Constanzo

MEXICO CITY, May 8. (AP): Surrounded by police, the leader of a drug-smuggling cult accused of the ritual mutilation-slayings of 15 people along the US border ordered a subordinate to kill him or suffer in the afterlife.

"He said to kill him because if I didn't it was going to go very badly for me in hell," Alvaro de Leon Valdez, 22, told a news conference yesterday.

De Leon killed cult leader Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo and the ringleader's right-hand man with a machine-gun as police closed in on the Mexico City apartment where the gang was hiding the attorney-general's office said.

"He went crazy, crazy," De Leon Valdez said.

De Leon Valdez, along with four other people including 24-year-old Sara Maria Aldrete Villarreal, described by authorities as the "witch" of the cult, were arrested after Saturday's shootout.

The attorney-general's office presented the five to perform yesterday. They stood behind a table covered with cult items found in the apartment, including two swords, black candles, a skull apparently made of white wax and a blindfolded doll holding another doll.

Authorities have said they believe Constanzo, 26, and Aldrete directed human sacrifices, mutilations and the boiling of brains and other organs in rituals to bring occult protection to their ring, which dealt mostly in marijuana.

The bodies of the victims, including a University of Texas student, were found buried on a ranch in Matamoros near the US border beginning April 11.

Aldrete, who referred to Constanzo as El Padrino, or godfather, said he had nothing to do with the slayings and learned about them in television reports.

"I couldn't believe it. It was amazing," said the former honour student at Texas southmost college in Brownsville, Texas.

The search for Mark Kilroy of Santa Fe, Texas, who disappeared on spring break in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, led to discovery of the bodies at the Santa Elena ranch.

Asked who killed Kilroy, Aldrete said: "Adolfo."

De Leon Valdez said he was present when the young American was killed with a machete chop to the head. Kilroy's spinal column was removed for a necklace, he said.

"I feel sorry because when he disappeared I was trying to help the (Kilroy) family," Aldrete said in response to reporters' questions.

Aldrete said that shortly before Constanzo was killed he was shouting that he and close associate Martin Quintana Rodriguez should be "killed since everything was finished for them."

"He was telling him 'do it, do it. If you don't do it, you're going to pay with circumstances in hell.'

Their bodies were found slumped together inside a tiny closet of the apartment.

Aldrete told authorities Constanzo had invited her to join "Christian Santeria" and asked her to use voodoo to help people with problems, Abraham Polo Uscanga, deputy city attorney-general, said.

She said Constanzo initiated her into the cult in 1988.

Asked if she was in love with Constanzo, Cuban-American who grew up in suburban Miami, Aldrete said: "No, but I followed him."

Santeria is a blend of Catholicism and old African beliefs that includes animal sacrifices and is an offshoot of voodoo.

The murders were carried out in a "little temple." A small building on the ranch, and body parts were put in a cauldron, De Leon Valdez said.

Bodies exhumed on the ranch had brains, hearts, sexual organs and other parts removed.

De Leon Valdez said Constanzo told them the people were killed "so that it would go better for us on the road, in the future."

Neighbours said the group had been living for about two weeks in the fourth-floor apartment of the rust-coloured apartment building in a quiet neighbourhood of the capital.

On Sunday, police armed with machine-guns sat in a truck outside the apartment building, saying they were there to ensure no one tampered with evidence.

Police sealed off the apartment. Seen through a keyhole, the place was a shambles. A chair and bed were turned sideways and litter was strewn about the floor.

Swedish politicians killed in air crash

Plane explodes

OSKARSHAMN, Sweden, May 8. (AP): A small passenger plane on a domestic flight crashed on landing today, killing at least five Swedes and 11 other passengers and crew, officials said.

The politicians were on an official inquiry for the Parliament into Sweden's telecommunications and internal air mail links, said a Parliament spokeswoman.

Three of the victims were current Parliament members, one was a former member, and one was the longtime Stockholm party boss of the ruling Social Democrats, John-Olle Persson, the Swedish national radio reported.

The plane, a twin-engine Beechcraft 99, hit the runway nose first, caught fire and exploded, witnesses told rescue workers. The cause of the crash was not

immediately determined.

Police said 14 passengers and two crewmen were listed on the flight when the aircraft left Stockholm's Arlanda airport for Oskarshamn, a town on Sweden's southeastern coast.

But police duty officer Sigurd Gustafsson said he could not confirm that all the listed passengers were aboard the flight. The fire was too severe to be certain of the number of bodies.

"No one survived the crash," which occurred at about 10 am (0800 GMT), he said.

Gustafsson said skies were clear and there were no strong winds when the accident happened at Virkvarns airport north of Oskarshamn.

The propeller-driven aircraft belonged to the regional airline Holmstrom Flyg, a family company that has seven small planes.

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The government promised results by today evening and declared today a holiday. The opposition called for an afternoon protest march and threatened a general strike.

Merchants in areas with a tradition of political turbulence stocked up windows and people stocked up on food and other necessities, recalling political violence and general strikes of early 1988.

The government coalition released an exit poll of 18,136 voters that it said showed Duque winning by a margin of 50.9 per cent to 44.7 per cent. The opposition released an exit poll of 1,022 voters showing Endara leading Duque 55.1 per cent to 39.5 per cent.

In the only reported election day violence, the Roman Catholic Church said a Dutch priest was seriously injured when he was shot, apparently accidentally, following his arrest in the western province of Chiriqui.

The Rev. Nicolas van Cleef was following orders to drive to Defence Forces headquarters when the gun of a soldier sitting near him went off, church officials said.

They said the priest was arrested after making a reference to the electoral process while using a megaphone to exhort Panamanians to attend mass. Van Cleef reportedly was in grave condition yesterday.

The gunman fired shots at a freelance photographer driving through the Namibian capital but caused no injuries in the fourth apparently politically motivated attack in as many days, the photographer said on Monday.

Liebenberg had received an anonymous phone call of trouble in the township.

Picture shows Liebenberg leans on the bullet-riddled door of his car. (Reuter wirephoto)

Photographer attacked

An unidentified gunman fired shots at a freelance photographer driving through the Namibian capital but caused no injuries in the fourth apparently politically motivated attack in as many days, the photographer said on Monday.

The gunman in an overtaking vehicle fired four shots into the car of photographer John Liebenberg, on assignment for the British news agency Reuter, as he drove by a hospital on the edge of the township of Katutura.

Liebenberg had received an anonymous phone call of trouble in the township.

Picture shows Liebenberg leans on the bullet-riddled door of his car. (Reuter wirephoto)



Panama polls

Call for march to protest elections

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 8. (AP): Opposition leaders called for a massive march today to protest the alleged theft by Gen. Antonio Manuel Noriega's forces of a presidential election they claimed their candidate won.

The government also claimed victory in yesterday's largely peaceful balloting, though official results had not yet been released.

Turnout was high and many people had to wait in line several hours to cast ballots for president, two vice presidents and the national assembly in what was considered a referendum on Noriega's hold on power.

The opposition claimed that the 15,000-strong Defense Forces, which Noriega heads, had perpetrated widespread fraud, with many soldiers voting more than once. Some foreign observers reported irregularities.

"Despite all the irregularities, the opposition has triumphed," opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara told a news conference last night. He claimed to have won by a 2-to-1 margin over Noriega's hand-picked candidate, Carlos Duque.

At his news conference, Duque called opposition talk of fraud "childish." A late-night communiqué from the pro-government coalition said, "we can affirm that our triumph is decisive, just honest and perfectly clear." Government candidates have been holding "victory dinners" for the past week.

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Policy emerges as Cory speaks

Filipino Army sgt shot dead

MANILA, May 8. (AP): A lone gunman today shot dead an army sergeant aboard a crowded commuter bus in a

INTERNATIONAL

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Best Thatcher jokes

LONDON, May 8, (UPI): For a woman who describes herself as "a boring workaholic" Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has inspired a lot of jokes.

The country celebrated her 10 years in office May 4 with a documentary, articles, books, broadcasts, mementos and plenty of laughs.

Did you hear the one about her cabinet?

In a rare show of extravagance, Thatcher invited her entire cabinet to dinner at an expensive restaurant, according to "The World's Best Maggie Thatcher Jokes." "What would you like to have for the main course, madam?" asked the waiter. "Steak," she replied. "And how about the vegetables, madam?" "They'll have steak, too."

Another of the book's jokes: "Margaret Thatcher died and arrived at the gates of heaven. To nobody's surprise except her own, she was turned away and told to seek accommodation elsewhere. About an hour later, St. Peter was roused by a loud knocking at his door. He went outside to find 200 devils looking for political asylum."

Thatcher emerged from her 10 Downing Street office in March with news of her grandson's birth, pronouncing "we are a grandmother." In addition to confirming suspicious she has become all too regal, the comment yielded a front-page cartoon of a babe in Thatcher's arms who boasted, "We are a grandson."

One of the biggest crowd-drawers in a week of Maggie madness was Saturday night's special edition of "Springtime Image," a satirical puppet show, entitled "The sound of Maggie."

Billed as the show that "Never ends," the 45-minute programme set in a theatre featured a duet with Thatcher and Argentine President Galtieri called "Send in the troops" which poked fun at the 74-day Falklands war in 1982, and "I want to be like America," a number in which Thatcher envies Yanks for not having to curtsy to a queen.

"When you are tracing the landmarks of a decade of Thatcherism there are bound to be lots of unpleasant things," said David Tyler, co-producer of the show that has portrayed Thatcher as everything from former President Reagan's poodle to an alien.

Virus-like infectious agent

WASHINGTON, May 8, (KUNA): A government scientist who claims to have discovered a "virus-like infectious agent" in some AIDS patients has reported that the mysterious microbe is capable of causing a fatal infection in experimental animals.

Shy-Ching Lo of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has suggested that his virus-like agent may represent "a new opportunistic infection" in AIDS patients or, more intriguing, may play "a more fundamental role as a cofactor" in AIDS. In some cases, a cofactor is necessary in addition to another, to cause a disease. Or a cofactor simply may predispose a person to a primary cause.

Ritalin eases mental troubles

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8, (AP): Mental and emotional troubles caused by AIDS virus infections eased after patients took the anti-hypertension drug Ritalin in a new study, a researcher said.

Dr Francisco Fernandez stressed, however, that Ritalin is not a cure, but rather a helpful auxiliary treatment for some mood and thinking problems caused by the AIDS virus. When the virus attacks the brain, it can cause mood swings, confusion, anxiety, depression and anxiety.

Warhol was addicted to valium

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuters): Pop artist Andy Warhol was addicted to the tranquiliser valium in the months before he died in 1987 of heart failure, according to excerpts of his diary published yesterday.

"When I wake up in the morning I feel aches and pains. And I am addicted to valium," he wrote in excerpts from "The Andy Warhol Diaries" printed by People magazine.

The disclosure that the queen's daughter had



Flash flood

Heavy rains in the Washington area caused flash flooding and the collapse of a parking lot built on top of a creek near Washington. More than 50 cars were damaged and several were swept into the nearby Potomac River. The storm spawned tornadoes in other areas of the East coast. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tribute to a Japanese princess

BOLOGNA, Italy, May 8, (UPI): Experts on religious artifacts met yesterday and questioned the validity of scientific tests that concluded the Shroud of Turin did not wrap Christ's body.

Authorities such as Brother Bruno Bonelli of France said the carbon-dating test on samples of the Shroud by researchers in England, the United States and Switzerland did not necessarily discredit its authenticity.

Walk for Hunger

BOSTON, May 8, (UPI): The 20th annual Walk for Hunger, America's largest grassroots programme to fight urban hunger, shattered its turnout and fund-raising records yesterday, with 35,000 participants and an estimated \$3.5 million in pledges.

Under warm, sunny skies and a brisk breeze, the influential and the anonymous walk-by-side for 20 miles (32 km) through Boston, Brookline, Newton and Cambridge.

Charges dropped against worker

MIAMI, May 8, (UPI): The state dropped charges Friday against a former migrant worker imprisoned more than 21 years for the poisoning death of his seven children, saying the man probably did not commit the crime.

"It's nice to be free, it is. It feels great," said James Richardson, 53, reached by telephone in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. "I'm planning to have a party. I'm just going to the beach and relaxing and watching the waves and the white sand and the green grass, going to do some fishing."

Anne's maid knows nothing

LONDON, May 8, (AP): Princess Anne's personal maid says she knows nothing about love letters that disappeared from the Princess' briefcase and ended up at a newspaper office.

The disclosure that the queen's daughter had

received personal letters from royal aide Timothy Laurence, a Royal Navy commander, renewed rumours of trouble in her 15-year-old marriage to former Army Captain Mark Phillips.

Universal health insurance

SWARTHMORE, Pennsylvania, May 8, (AP): Criticizing the health care provisions in President George Bush's budget, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis renewed his call for universal health insurance while commemorating the 125th anniversary of his alma mater.

Dukakis last spoke at Swarthmore College while seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

Ricciarelli's second performance

MILAN, Italy, May 8, (AP): Italian soprano Katia Ricciarelli says she'll appear in a second performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Luise Miller," despite the unflattering reception she got at the opening.

The singer was booed by the audience at the opening performance, which was also panned by critics.

AIDS victim sues government

TOKYO, May 8, (KUNA): Two Japanese carrying the AIDS virus today sued the government and two pharmaceutical companies demanding a compensation of \$170,000.

The two AIDS victims accused the Health Ministry of negligence for allowing the two local companies to import infected plasma. The claim is the first among 2,000 people carriers of the AIDS virus from imported plasma.

Griffin to spend \$50m on plants

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Entertainer Merv Griffin's taking his Hollywood know-how to his newly acquired properties on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Griffin plans to spend \$50 million just to bring in extra plants for three of his hotels.

Rules make Devil an actor

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Had the rules at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts been different, acid-tongue actor Danny DeVito might have been a makeup artist.

DeVito, interviewed in Parade magazine, attended the prestigious acting academy, intending to become a Hollywood makeup person.

"But you couldn't enrol as a makeup student. You had to enrol as an actor. I got hooked," DeVito said. "I got so involved that I was tormented ... There was no way out."

James Brown's interview

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, May 8, (AP): The Rev. Jesse Jackson says jailed soul singer James Brown should be allowed to give a television interview to the French government as part of his bicentennial celebration.

Jackson visited Brown at State Park Correctional Centre and asked that the singer be allowed to give the interview.

"James Brown's musical contribution has earned him that honour," Jackson's an unsuccessful candidate last year for the Democratic presidential nomination, said after meeting with Brown.

Actor Guy Williams found dead

BUENOS AIRES, May 8, (Reuters): Former American actor Guy Williams who played the swashbuckling lead in the television series "Zorro," was found dead on Saturday in his Buenos Aires apartment, a police spokesman said yesterday.

Police sources quoted by the state news agency Télam said Williams, 65, may have died up to a week ago of a heart attack. Télam added he was divorced and was survived by two sons.

2.2m crime victims injured in US

WASHINGTON, May 8, (UPI): From 1979 to 1986, an average of 2.2 million crime victims were injured each year nationwide, according to the study by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Of those, an estimated 500,000 were treated at emergency rooms or hospitals, and some 350,000 each year were hospitalized for two or more days, the national crime survey showed.

Ninety-year-old Mario Borradori managed his first parachute jump from 4000 metres and set a new record for the Guinness Book of Records yesterday. He said, "It was a nice experience" and would do it again. Picture left shows recordholder with instructor before jump and picture right during the jump.

A record

Ninety-year-old Mario Borradori managed his first parachute jump from 4000 metres and set a new record for the Guinness Book of Records yesterday. He said, "It was a nice experience" and would do it again. Picture left shows recordholder with instructor before jump and picture right during the jump.

Former goddess Sunina down to earth

Retired at age 13, she wants to be doctor

KATHMANDU, May 8, (Reuters): Sunina Shakya is catching up on the schooling she missed when she was a goddess.

Once she lived in an elaborately carved wooden house in Nepal's royal palace compound. Now the shy and slender 20-year-old lives with her family in a fourth floor tenement flat in Kathmandu.

Retired by tradition at age 13, Sunina — who had to skip school when she was a child goddess — is finishing high school and wants to be a doctor.

She first began to understand she was special at around the age of six, Sunina told a Reuter correspondent during a recent visit to Nepal.

She had been chosen over several other candidates at the age of four as the new "Kumar

Finally, she passed the last test. The child candidates were all put in a darkened room and subjected to fearsome noises.

Sunina said she does not remember much about the ordeal but she apparently was the calmest child — which meant she was the reincarnated goddess.

She was never allowed to leave her room on the third floor of the Kumari House, with magnificent carvings of gods on the walls and painted lion statues at the entrance, except on certain festivals.

"I was very happy in the Kumari House," she said. "I don't know why. Maybe because it was the gods' place."

Young men carried her in a sumptuously decorated palanquin through the streets of Kathmandu on festival days. Children

were allowed to come up and play with her. Men came to worship, sometimes leaving gifts or money.

The king, regarded by some Nepalese Hindus as an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, pays homage to the living goddess during Indra Jatra, one of Nepal's most spectacular religious festivals.

Sunina recalls nervously anointing him on that day with a mixture of powders, flower petals and rice that Nepal's Hindu rub onto the forehead to symbolize the divine presence.

At the age of 13 and the onset of puberty Sunina retired as a child goddess, as her predecessors had since the mid-18th century when the tradition of reincarnated virgin goddesses began.

Increasing violence against boat people

Thai pirates killing hundreds

BANGKOK, May 8, (AP): Thai fishermen have killed or left for dead hundreds of Vietnamese boat people in the last year in what Western officials call a reversal of recent progress against piracy in Southeast Asian waters.

Survivors reaching Malaysia tell of scores of refugees at a time drowning in attacks in which the pirates ram Vietnamese boats, then use hammers and other objects to repel survivors trying to cling to the pirate vessels.

"The level of violence, the viciousness of attacks has gone up ... even though the number of attacks has gone down," said a Western aid official, who demanded anonymity.

Thai government officials would not officially comment, but some dismissed the accounts by survivors as fabrications designed to win sympathy and quicker resettlement in the West. They also dismissed suggestions that government policy had encouraged the violence.

Figures compiled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees show at least 28 people killed and 590 missing and presumed dead in 1988 and the first three months of this year.

In addition, the UNHCR said Friday that seven pirates armed with shotguns and hammers killed three crew members and set fire to a boat carrying about 130 Vietnamese refugees off the Malaysian coast April 16. There was only one known survivor.

Two attacks in March left more than 100 people missing, according to survivors' accounts collected by the UNHCR.

On March 19, three boats manned by about 15 pirates robbed a vessel with 46 Vietnamese aboard. They abducted 10 women, then rammed the Vietnamese boat until it capsized. A passing vessel rescued the only known survivor.

On March 25, pirates abduct-



A Vietnamese refugee rests aboard a Hong Kong patrol boat

ted up to 30 women and children after looting a boat with 58 Vietnamese passengers. Armed with knives and metal objects, the pirates beat the other passengers and threw them overboard. A teenage boy and an old man who floated to an oil rig were the only known survivors.

Pirates have attacked the Vietnamese in the Gulf of Thailand and the adjoining South China Sea since they began fleeing the communist takeover in April 1975.

In recent years, these attacks had been steadily decreasing with the strengthening of a Thai anti-piracy programme coordinated by the UNHCR and funded by Western nations, mostly the United States.

According to UNHCR figures, pirates attacked 17 per cent of the Vietnamese boats that landed on Asian shores in 1985. The attacks left 453 people dead or missing.

The proportion and violence of attacks fell the next two years.

In 1987, pirates attacked eight per cent of the boats, 95 people were reported dead or missing.

The proportion of attacks fell to seven per cent in 1988, but the violence increased dramatically.

In the 100 boats attacked, 58 people were reported killed and 478 missing, including 71 women who were abducted and not recovered.

In the first three months of this year, at least 242 people were missing from attacks and up to 85 women were reported raped.

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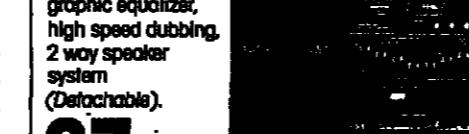


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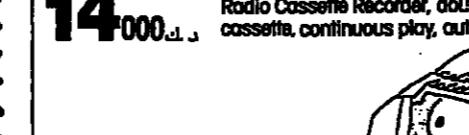
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Baker will seek help on Mideast

First visit to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): On his first Soviet trip, US Secretary of State James Baker will ask for cooperation in the Middle East, Central America and other trouble spots—and steer clear of preparations for a superpower summit meeting until the results are in.

Despite several steps by Mikhail Gorbachev to lower tensions, Baker started out today on his first visit to Moscow sceptical that the Soviet leader's actions are in line with Gorbachev's "new thinking."

Baker has publicly questioned, for instance, whether reductions in troops and defence spending announced by Gorbachev have done much to offset Warsaw Pact edges in some military categories in Europe.

Two of Baker's closest aides, briefing reporters before his takeoff for Finland, said he would discuss a summit meeting with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze only if they raised the subject.

1965 incident

H-bomb lost

NEW YORK, May 8, (Agencies): A hydrogen bomb with the potential blasting power of a million tonnes of TNT was lost 24 years ago off a US aircraft carrier 200 miles (320 km) from Okinawa, according to Newsweek magazine in a report released yesterday.

The 1965 incident, which also cost the life of a pilot and an A-4E Skyhawk strike aircraft, was covered up by the US Navy, according to documents gathered under US freedom of information laws for the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington, the magazine said.

The aircraft carrying the bomb rolled off the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga, headed to the Japanese port of Yokosuka from Vietnam and sank in 16,200 feet (5,000 metres) of water, the report said.

"For years, the US Navy refused to admit the Ticonderoga incident had even taken place," Newsweek said. "In a 1981 summary of accidents involving nuclear weapons, the Pentagon listed the incident but claimed it occurred 500 miles (800 km) from land." All other details were classified as top secret.

Researchers for the institute placed the incident 70 miles (115 km) east of the nearest Japanese island and 200 miles (320 km) from the more heavily populated Okinawa, Newsweek said.

Panic spread among residents of the Japanese Okinawa island following the Newsweek magazine report.

Following the spread of the news, Japan's Council for Anti-Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs called on the military authorities to carry out investigations immediately, saying the bomb could have caused radiation pollution or already had.

US ties troops to N-weapons

West deeply divided

WASHINGTON, May 8, (Reuter): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, entering a stormy debate that divides NATO allies, says he could not see a commitment of US troops to protect Europe unless they were backed by short-range nuclear weapons.

With three weeks remaining before a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, the Western alliance is deeply divided over a Soviet proposal to negotiate cuts in missiles with a range of up to 300 miles (500 km).

President George Bush refuses to accept the Soviet proposal for immediate talks on reducing short-range nuclear weapons in Europe—insisting, instead, that the size of conventional forces be reduced before negotiations begin on nuclear arms.

"I would argue strenuously that we do not foresee a set of circumstances in which you would have US troops deployed in Western Europe, where you would not also have as a significant component of deterrence nuclear weapons," Cheney said yesterday. "That's a fact of life."

"We clearly are pursuing now in the arms control arena reduction in conventional superiority of the Soviets possess," he said in a US television interview.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who wants immediate talks on reducing nuclear forces, has been pressing for immediate East-West talks on reducing the number of missiles with a range of up to 300 miles (500 km).

Washington and Britain fear such talks could lead

prematurely to the elimination of nuclear arms in Europe—the so-called "third zero" option. They claim Western Europe would then be easy prey to superior Soviet conventional forces.

"We should not be now involved in the business of trying to embark on negotiations that could be settled in a third zero," Cheney said.

Congressman Les Aspin, powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, warned a prolonged debate could generate calls in Congress for withdrawing US troops from Europe.

If "there is a sentiment to go to a third zero, elimination of all nuclear weapons, I think the issue of no-nukes, no-troops starts to get into the forefront," he said on the same programme.

"It is a danger," Aspin said. "It's not this year, but I could see it down the line."

Cheney argued that "short-range nuclear weapons are a key element in our strategy in Western Europe, and for us now to enter into negotiations that could result in a third zero would be a very serious mistake and undermine the basic strategy of the alliance."

Paul Nitze, the senior US arms control negotiator for former President Reagan, also said on the programme that the United States should "be cautious but be imaginative."

Nitze said the US demands for a modernisation of the Lance missile while refusing to enter the talks on the short-range weapons puts undue pressure on Bonn.

Cheney said during a television interview on April 29 that Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev "would ultimately fall" in his attempt to restructure the Soviet economy and is "likely to be replaced by somebody who will be far more hostile" to the West.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater last Monday said Cheney's comments were "personal observations" and did not reflect the views of the Bush administration.

In an interview in the May 15 edition of Time magazine, Shevardnadze said, "that particular statement is incompetent and not serious. I think President Bush understands the situation quite well when he says perestroika is an irreversible process."

In the interview, Shevardnadze also was asked whether he could envision any scenario in which Soviet troops would intervene militarily in a Warsaw Pact country.

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Life is dismal for survivors of tornado

130,000 left homeless in Bangladesh

MANIKGANJ, Bangladesh, May 8. (AP): Mohammad Ahsanullah sold a cow to get money to rebuild a house lost in last week's killer tornado, but many of the storm's other survivors do not have such resources.

"I shall never get a house again," said Noorjahan Begum, who had moved into a new two-room house only two days before the tornado hit the Manikganj area, killing at least 1,100 people.

The mud-and-straw house was given to her by a local voluntary organisation which works for the poor.

"Where shall I get the money?"

asked Noorjahan, a 35-year-old widow who lived with her three children in Nirlala, a small village near Manikganj.

Like many of the 130,000 people left homeless by the April 26

tornado, Noorjahan and her children are living in the open and surviving on government-supplied food.

The twister tore through a cluster of 40 villages at 160 kms (100 miles) an hour, destroying at least 30,000 houses and injuring about 12,000 people.

Some of the most seriously hurt now suffer from gangrene.

Doctors estimate at least 500 people will have to have arms or

legs amputated because of gangrene.

Ahsanullah, 45, who is well-off by local standards, said he sold one of his two cows for 4,600 taka (\$144) to rebuild his tin-roofed, wooden house in Tilli village.

The government plans to build 2,400 houses and the non-government voluntary organisations have promised to construct 4,000 more.

The storm also left lingering health problems, because water facilities were destroyed and people have been drinking polluted water.

Manikganj doctors, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they had treated at least 500 peo-

ple for diarrhoea in the last five days. Two of those people have died, the doctors said.

Bangladesh, home of 110-million people, is plagued by a cycle of natural disasters that includes floods, drought, cyclones and tornadoes. The low-lying nation, most of it barely above sea level, is one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in the world, with an average annual income of \$160.

Last summer, floods killed 1,400 people and left 2.5 million homeless. A cyclone in November claimed 1,100 lives.

Election battle Rajiv to unveil a plan for villages

NEW DELHI, May 8. (Reuter): Power to the people is the election battle cry of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as he prepares to unveil an ambitious plan to devolve political authority to India's villages.

Rajiv must first overcome resistance from opposition leaders, who denounced the scheme as part of his strategy to win general elections due by the end of the year.

Under the plan, Rajiv's Congress (I) Party administration in New Delhi will closely monitor the funds it allocates to state governments for village development.

In the past, opposition-led states used a large part of funds in urban areas or to further the interests of the ruling party. Elections to the "panchayats" or councils were not held in most of India's half-a-million villages, a spokesman for Rajiv's government said.

"Now panchayat polls will be made compulsory by amending the constitution in the current session of Parliament," he said.

Rajiv's old heads of panchayats and members of the socialist party of "Brave New India" last week: "Amendments of historic importance would be made in the constitution to bring power to the people at the grassroots level."

His audience welcomed the news, saying it would allow them to get the full benefit of financial aid from the centre without losing a portion of it to the state government through corruption and political interference.

The panchayat was traditionally a body of elders of a village who decided local disputes, but had little control over the development of their areas.

"The village is still the heart of India and the plan is a bold attempt by the prime minister to appeal directly to the people for their support in the elections," said a senior Congress leader.

For Rajiv, struggling to counter allegations of corruption and inefficiency levelled against his government by the opposition, it could also mean a last ditch bid to build himself up as a populist leader concerned for the poor.

Rajiv Kothari, of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said the move would undercut governments in the six opposition-ruled states by making panchayats financially dependent on New Delhi.

"It is also an eyewash and an election gimmick," Kothari added.

The vice-president of the opposition Janata Dal Party, Ramakrishna Hegde, described the plan as Rajiv's dangerous idea of ruling the villages from New Delhi.

Militants call Kashmir strike

SRINAGAR, India, May 8. (Reuter): Kashmiri militants seeking secession from India have called a four-day strike from May 11 and formed suicide squads to combat police action against it.

The move is expected to result in renewed violence after a suspension of anti-government protests for the Muslim Ramadan fast.

The month-long fast finished on Saturday in Kashmir, the only state with a Muslim majority in predominantly Hindu India.

Cassette tapes sent to reporters in Srinagar, the summer capital, said suicide squads had been set up to combat what they called "the police onslaught" expected against the strike.

During anti-government riots in late March and early April, at least six people were killed, according to government figures. Local residents said the total could be as high as 30.

Relief arrives in southern Sudan

Survival struggle goes on

Operation Lifeline Sudan

NAIROBI, May 8. (Reuter): The United Nations says it has moved enough food aid to war-torn southern Sudan to prevent mass deaths of thousands of people who face starvation there because farming has been disrupted by the fighting.

James Grant, head of the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, told a news conference in Nairobi last night that 45,000 tonnes of food had been rushed to southern Sudan since March.

Another 45,000 tonnes was expected to be moved in between now and the end of June, which would be 30,000 tonnes short of the original estimate set for the region when the operation was launched in April.

"We can say that the operation is well launched but it is substantially behind schedule ... but we appear to be in a position to avoid any massive deaths," Grant said.

Ragged bands of hungry children scavenged outside Torit's grain warehouse and weary old people waited stoically at the Catholic-run Mother of Mercy Home for maize.

Tens of thousands of people, mainly in southern Sudan, have died in the war that has sent more than 500,000 others fleeing to Ethiopia and Uganda as refugees.

Torit's returning residents found only the barest of survival rations as relief workers conserved limited food supplies.

protein-rich food.

Only a few scrawny cattle survived a nine-month siege of Torit by the SPLA last year.

Townspersons could no longer farm in the fertile countryside and supply routes from Juba, the regional capital, were cut off.

Torit's main street is deserted

except for chanting rebel recruits who march past gutted and abandoned shops, and the empty open-air market.

Maize is keeping Mario

Severino alive but a belly protruding over ragged shorts is clear evidence of the lack of

greens to supplement the maize survival rations.

The WFP is arranging for supplies of beans, salt, sugar and milk powder, Marlinson said.

Nearby, groups of malnourished workers struggled to drag 90 kg (200-pound) sacks off trucks flying the blue-and-white UN flag.

Maize has been the first

priority of the UN's operation

lifeline, which hopes to move

100,000 tonnes of food into southern Sudan before the rainy season begins this month.

Hamilton 'sceptical about Bush'

Reagan's role in Iran-Contra affair unclear

WASHINGTON, May 8. (UPI): Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of a Special Committee that investigated the Iran-Contra affair, said yesterday he is still "sceptical" about President Bush's assertion that he never helped the Reagan administration illegally supply rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Hamilton insisted that his committee never got the full story in its investigation into the secret White House plan to sell arms to Iran and divert profits from those sales to the Nicaraguan Contras despite a congressional ban on aiding the rebels.

Although Bush told reporters "there was no quid pro quo" involved, Hamilton expressed his doubts.

"I am sceptical," Hamilton said. "That's the whole story of Iran-Contra I think.

"I am sceptical in part because of the documents," he said.

These documents show that we contacted Honduras, we increased aid to Honduras and Honduras in return aided the

Contras.

"Those documents are about as clear a statement of quid pro quo as you'll ever see in a government document," he said.

"Those documents have implications. They are contrary to what the President says. We ought to pursue them."

Hamilton did not, however, say that Congress would reopen an investigation into Bush's role but left open the possibility that his committee could be reactivated.

"I think I have and other members of Congress have a responsibility to pursue these matters," he said.

But, in an interview with CBS's "Face the Nation," Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., defended Bush and called the "resurrection of the whole issue simply because (of) some documents... very unfortunate."

Arab Times, Tuesday, May 9, 1989

Tehran executes hundreds amid political turmoil

NICOSIA, May 8. (AP): Iranian authorities have executed hundreds of people since August amid the political turmoil that has followed the Iran-Iraq war, and sources outside the country say a new wave of arrests is under way.

Iranian authorities have announced that "scores of counter-revolutionaries" and more than 500 drug offenders have been put to death since August.

But human rights groups and opposition sources outside Iran assert that the real number of executions could range from 1,000 to more than 12,000, and that many of the purported drug offenders executed in fact may be political opponents to the government.

The executions are the most numerous in Iran since 1980-81, when Ayatollah Khomeini's loyalists turned on leftist and

secular militants who helped them topple Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

There is speculation that the executions will continue, against a growing official outcry against "liberals" inside the country and signs of a power struggle within the Tehran hierarchy.

"The liberals are in conflict with the revolution," Tehran's

radical Jomhuri Islami daily declared last week. "Why have they been left... to infiltrate every place they want to carry out wicked acts?... The snakes are in their holes and waiting to release their poison."

In the Tehran political maneuvering, hardliners led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi appear now to hold the upper hand. Several leading figures associated with more

moderate policies have already become casualties of the fundamentalist resurgence decreed by Khomeini in February.

Most prominent among them has been Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, who lost his status as the chosen successor to Khomeini as Iran's spiritual leader. Montazeri had called for a halt to executions and wider freedoms, and openly criticised

the shortcomings of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Some of the "counter-revolutionaries" that Tehran has acknowledged were executed were Montazeri's supporters.

Many were middle-ranking clerics, including Hojatoleslam Omid Najafabadi, a former revolutionary judge. They were described by Intelligence Minister Mohammad Rez Shahri as

"pseudo-clergymen... involved in various political, moral and corrupt offences."

The most powerful opposition movement to Khomeini outside Iran, the Iraqi-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, claim that more than 12,000 political prisoners have been slain in the state in the last six months. It has listed by name 1,600 of the alleged victims, and says hundreds of more people are being arrested now.

Love for revolution

ABU DHABI, May 8. (Reuter): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said he renounced revolution as a young man so he could concentrate on revolution.

"I did not have any love affair then. I imposed a strict regime on myself and kept away from anything that might interfere with the planned revolution," Khaddafi said in an interview with Abu Dhabi Television yesterday.

Khaddafi, who overthrew the monarchy in 1969 at the age of 27 and expelled US and British troops in Libya, is now a father of seven.

Palestinian goods

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuter): A leading Israeli industrialist has asked that goods made in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be marked so Israelis can decide if they wish to buy them, Israeli Radio said today.

Michael Strauss, head of the food division of Israel's Manufacturers Association, said it was ridiculous that while Palestinians boycotted Israeli products, Israelis had no way of telling whether they were buying Israeli or Palestinian goods, the radio said.

Rebels reject

ADDIS ABABA, May 8. (Reuter): Sudanese rebels today rejected the government's offer to set up a joint committee to enforce a ceasefire proposed last week.

Responding to the proposal, Nehial Deng, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the rebels would meet with the government only to implement a broader peace pact they reached last November with one of the parties in Sudan's governing coalition.

Al Khalifa visit

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, May 8. (KUNA): Bahrain's Crown Prince and acting Premier Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa arrived in Jeddah yesterday evening on a visit to the Saudi kingdom, the official Saudi Press Agency, SPA, reported.

The agency, declining other details, said the Bahrain official was greeted at the airport by senior military and government officials.



Soldier's grave

An Israeli soldier removes a pickaxe and a hoe as he and another soldier pass the grave of Avi Sassportas, an Israeli paratrooper killed while hitch-hiking. (Reuter wirephoto)

Inside the intifada

Fax and olive branch

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuter): "People think of the intifada as the 'revolution of the stones,'" says one of its underground leaders.

"It is also the revolution of the fax and the olive branch."

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat never goes anywhere without his facsimile transmitter-receiver, associates say, and the machines have become key tools of the Palestinian revolt.

They enable PLO leaders in exile and clandestine organisers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to speak with one voice to street activists engaged in a daily struggle against Israeli rule.

Leads which carry calls and other directives are drafted by local underground leaders, Palestinian sources say.

But before they are issued they are faxed via Paris to Tunis, edited by the PLO, then sent back to Jerusalem for distribution in the occupied territories.

Arafat coined the phrase "the gun and the olive branch" in a 1975 UN speech to describe the Palestinian struggle. The uprising of leadership has foreshadowed the use of fax.

"Our strengths are our anonymity, our link with the PLO and the fact that the uprising has a peace message — our readiness to build a Palestinian state alongside Israel, not to destroy Israel, said one of the uprising leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Recent Israeli court indictments against seven alleged activists shed new light on the unified national leadership of the uprising, which issues the PLO-backed directives.

They also named several accused leaders of the 17-month revolt, including philosophy professor Sari Nusseibeh and journalists Samaan Khoury and Radwan Abu Ayash.

It was the first time since the beginning of the uprising that Israel's security services claimed to have proof that East Jerusalem intellectuals were directly guiding the intifada, writing leaflets and bringing in money.

Khouri is charged with working for an illegal organisation, Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, have not been indicted. All deny the accusations.

Court documents show the leadership comprised a delegate from each of four main factions — Arafat's Fatah, the Syrian-based Popular and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP) and the Palestine Communist Party.

The court documents say the PLO channelled millions of dollars to finance the uprising, some of it allegedly through Nusseibeh, 40, described as a senior Fatah activist.

Israel's dilemma

Restraining influence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuter): Israel faces tough choices in dealing with the underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to court documents, Shin Bet secret police have unmasked the men running the 17-month revolt.

But East Jerusalem intellectuals Sari Nusseibeh and Radwan Abu Ayash, named in charges against other activists as senior leaders of the mainstream Fatah movement, have not been arrested.

On the contrary, Israel has allowed Nusseibeh, Abu Ayash, Faisal Al Husseini and other leading figures to travel abroad, turning a blind eye to their contacts with the PLO.

And local Palestinian leaders have nevertheless refused to deal with Shamir, saying Israel must address itself to the PLO if it wants to negotiate an end to the uprising.

Security sources say Shin Bet cracked the organisation of the PLO-backed Unified National leadership three months ago but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided not to arrest Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash.

Shamir did not want to poison the atmosphere for his April trip to Washington, carrying proposals for elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinians to negotiate interim self-rule with Israel.

"Nusseibeh and Abu Ayash are precisely the kind of white-collar leaders he needs if he wants to reach a political solution," an Israeli security source said.

Palestinians say even if Israel jailed the entire leadership it would disrupt but not stop the rebellion, deeply rooted among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupation zone.

Without the restraining guidance of moderate East Jerusalem intellectuals, things would turn more violent and anarchic.

Arresting East Jerusalem intellectuals would also be likely to incur the wrath of the United States, European countries and human rights organisations, as well as the Israeli left.

Palestinians cite as an example the deportation last year of one of the early leaders of the uprising.

Nicknamed "The Palestinian Gandhi" by his supporters, Awad's removal did nothing to quell the uprising.

The Bir Zeit University philosophy professor is the son of a former Jordanian defence minister.

A key captured document alleged in the indictment to have been drafted by Khouri reports on the dispersal of \$1.5 million.

The indictments say Khouri was the DFLP representative in the unified leadership at the end of 1988. Hassan Abd Rabbo is listed as the Fatah representative.

Its members, they said, included Nusseibeh, Abu Ayash, Gaza lawyer Faez Abu Rahme, East Jerusalem leader Faisal Al Husseini, Al Fajr newspaper editor Hanna Siniara, An Najah University political science professor Saeb Erakat, think-tank directors Mahdi Abdel Hadi and Ibrahim Dakak, and communist journalist George Hazboun and Bashir Barghouti.

According to the Khouri document, the Communist Party received only \$20,000 of the \$1.5 million, while the PFLP got \$600,000, Fatah \$500,000 and the DFLP \$380,000.

Among Arafat aides responsible for co-ordinating with the internal uprising leaders are two deported West Bank residents, former Al Shabab newspaper editor Akram Haniyeh and deposed Halhoul mayor Mohamed Milhem, Palestinian sources say.

where Khouri enjoys overwhelming support.

A document attributed to Khouri also proposed formation of a secret committee to represent the unified leadership in international relations.

Palestinian sources said the proposed committee would have brought together the white-collar Palestinian leadership of the occupied territories.

Its members, they said, included Nusseibeh, Abu Ayash, Gaza lawyer Faez Abu Rahme, East Jerusalem leader Faisal Al Husseini, Al Fajr newspaper editor Hanna Siniara, An Najah University political science professor Saeb Erakat, think-tank directors Mahdi Abdel Hadi and Ibrahim Dakak, and communist journalist George Hazboun and Bashir Barghouti.

According to the Khouri document, the Communist Party received only \$20,000 of the \$1.5 million, while the PFLP got \$600,000, Fatah \$500,000 and the DFLP \$380,000.

The sums puzzled Israeli security officials because they do not reflect the relative strengths of the groups in the territories.

Co-operation

Khamenei to focus on arms in China

DUBAI, May 8. (Reuter): Iranian President Ali Khamenei will be hoping to wrap up several arms deals when he visits China and North Korea this week, Iranian sources said.

Khamenei will also take up a Chinese invitation to discuss further military co-operation, they said.

Western diplomats expect him to confirm friendly ties with China at a time when Tehran's switch to hardline, Islamic-inspired policies have spurred Western hostility.

China is also Iran's main hope of keeping its weapons and communications technology up to a standard that does not fall too far behind that of former war foe Iraq, they said.

Western military analysts have said North Korea has been an important conduit for some Chinese arms to Iran.

Iranian sources said there were many N. Korean as well as Chinese advisers working in Iran.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Khamenei left for Beijing today. Iranian sources said he would stay in China for six days and then go to Pyongyang for four days.

The sources did not say what deals he would be talking about but Iran has confirmed several large purchases of missiles and tanks over communications and satellite technology.

Iran is very short of cash and has made many arms purchases through barter trade, mostly for oil, Western diplomats said.

Khamenei will also want to build on a 1987 pact with China which said bilateral trade should rise to \$500 million a year and China would help construct a dam on the Kharkeh river, in Khuzestan, the Iranian sources said.

Western military analysts said a lot of the arms trade almost certainly was not included in this figure.

Last week, China's Ambassador to Tehran, Wang Benzuo, said he had discussed Iranian concerns about a sale of Chinese medium-range CSS2 missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Western military analysts said Iran probably feared that Chinese arms to the Saudis could end up in Iraq in the event of another war with Baghdad.

But it was unlikely to cause major problems, they said.

Wang Benzuo said China was happy to talk further about military co-operation, adding that Khamenei's visit was an important event in relations between the two countries.

Iranian jets, destroyers and frigates staged mock attacks on targets in the Gulf today, IRNA said.

It said the armed forces, which staged hundreds of real attacks on shipping before an August Gulf war ceasefire, were holding a five-day exercise.

Frigates, destroyers, missile boats and logistical vessels teamed up with frigates, a brigade of marines, mine sweepers, helicopters, jets, commandos and paratroopers, said IRNA.

Iran urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to help release more than 700 Iranians it claims were captured by Iraq after the truce in the Gulf war, IRNA reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati made the request during a meeting Saturday with an ICRC official. IRNA only identified the official as the ICRC's regional representative.

Khamenei opened the Tehran international book fair yesterday with an attack on the West for supporting Salman Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses.

Iran stresses support for Afghan rebels

Soviets rap Pakistan

MOSCOW, May 8. (Reuter): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a meeting with his Zimbabwe counterpart, charged that mounting interference from Pakistan has aggravated the situation in Afghanistan, Tass news agency said today.

Shevardnadze discussed the Afghan war yesterday with Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, Tass said.

Shamuyarira flew to Moscow after holding talks in Islamabad as a representative of the Non-Aligned Movement.

He told Shevardnadze that the non-aligned countries favoured a political solution to the Afghan problem and would discuss it at the coming meeting of the movement's co-ordination bureau in Harare, Tass said.

Shamuyarira arrived in Moscow yesterday for a short working visit, the first by a senior Zimbabwe official since it was announced in January that

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had been invited to visit Harare by President Robert Mugabe.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei told Afghan rebels that Tehran firmly supported them and felt its security was linked to Afghanistan's, Iran's IRNA news agency said today.

"Ideologically, it is our duty to help oppressed Muslims who are under pressure from every side," Khamenei told leaders of Afghan Muslim rebels fighting the pro-Soviet Kabul government.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Khamenei yesterday gave the leaders of the eight-party rebel coalition proposals on how bickering rebel factions might achieve unity. IRNA gave no details.

Noting that Iran and Afghanistan share a long border stretching 500 miles (800 km), he said Iran's national security was linked to Afghanistan's.

"We, under no circumstances, could remain indifferent towards the future government in Afghanistan," he said.

Mauritania blames Senegal

Riot compensation demanded

DAKAR, May 8. (Reuter): Mauritania has blamed Senegal for a flare-up of ethnic rioting which killed several hundred people and demanded compensation for Mauritania property seized or destroyed in Senegal.

The government and the people of Mauritania did not bear the slightest responsibility in the tragic events. On the contrary, we have always acted with the aim of avoiding clashes and loss of innocent lives," President Mohamed Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya said in a speech yesterday.

The sources did not say what deals he would be talking about but Iran has confirmed several large purchases of missiles and tanks over communications and satellite technology.

Iran is very short of cash and has made many arms purchases through barter trade, mostly for oil, Western diplomats said.

Khamenei will also want to build on a 1987 pact with China which said bilateral trade should rise to \$500 million a year and China would help construct a dam on the Kharkeh river, in Khuzestan, the Iranian sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Phones for chalets

THE Higher Planning Committee at the Ministry of Communications held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of the Minister Abdulla Al Sharhan to discuss issues listed on its agenda, the first and foremost of which is the provision of telephone service to chalets.

The committee discussed the proposed telephone line routes for the chalets, the existing shortages in the ministry's budget and measures so far taken to meet this shortage.

The committee also reviewed the subscriber telephone directory project and the steps taken by the supervisory committee towards the publication of the directory.

The committee decided that the proposed directory should cover the names of facsimile subscribers, and agreed on the way to advertise the ministry's additional services, applicants registration and proposed tariff.

The committee also discussed the various construction stages of the telecommunication tower scheduled for completion in 1991.

Insecticide expert

THE international expert on agricultural insecticides, and Assistant Undersecretary at the Lebanese Agricultural Ministry, Dr Fuad Saad visited Kuwait upon the invitation of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries.

Dr Saad will put forward the main feature lines for the establishment of a specialised central laboratory for analysing agricultural insecticides and their effects on foods in Kuwait.

Dr Saad pointed out that he has prepared a list for the technical staff and specialities required to fulfil the needs of all laboratory, scientific, technical and administrative sections. He also designed a draft project for the registration and importation of agricultural insecticides to Kuwait. The draft project includes a plan for the central laboratory that comprises of different sections.

Dr Saad gave a brief explanation on agricultural insecticide compounds and pointed out that such insecticides could be manufactured according to international standards.

He stressed that the purpose behind applying agricultural insecticides is to get rid of blights under a fully balanced and sensitive environment without affecting other beings.

Library training

THE controller of Kuwait libraries Ahmad Abdullah Al Ali has stressed the importance of training programmes in upgrading the existing performance level of librarians.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Al Ali said that the most frequent users of libraries were students and researchers who were looking to compile information on certain subjects as requested at universities or schools.

He said that the libraries had been detached from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in 1979 for purely organisational reasons and that there was still a shortage in the number of librarians and technical staff to run these libraries.

He said that the Libraries Department arranged for holding annual book fairs, which were guaranteed success and admiration by the public due to the organisation and consistent efforts exerted by the department staff.

Mijren denies blocking annual sales process

Electronic appliance companies abstain

THE Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Al Mijren was quoted as saying that the ministry was not blocking the sale process to be offered by merchants in the country.

Reductions

Mijren who was refuting claims raised by some merchants and local agents during a seminar organised by a local daily on the issue, said that the application of the law should not be understood as an obstacle for merchants who desire to offer reductions during the sale season.

He clarified that the 20% reduction to be given during the sale season was not imposed by the ministry, but it was stipulated in the relevant law, provided that the net profit should not exceed 10%.

He added, however, the ministry has set no specific date for sale but it has debated the issue with local agents and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and accordingly the pertinent ministerial decision had been issued in 1987. He further added that the said decision had allowed merchants and local agents to arrange for sale twice a year.

Mijren disclosed that the ministry had

recorded several violations committed by the merchants during the sale season, clarifying that 28 violations were committed by the electrical and electronic appliances merchants during the previous sales seasons.

Meanwhile, the official has described the demands by both merchants and local agents for the cancelling of the law organising the sales process as unjustified, clarifying that the said law was for the interest of both the merchant and the consumer. He added that the ministry had previously held a meeting with a number of merchants and representatives from the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry and requested them to submit their remarks over the sales law, but nothing on this issue had been submitted by them so far. He expressed the ministry's readiness to receive their observations and debate any observation in this connection with merchants, the local agents and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It has been learnt that the sale season this year will begin May 11th and would last up to May 31st with only 15 companies participating. Most of the electronic and electrical appliances companies will not participate in the sale season this year.



Accident on the motorway

A school bus with its number still intact rolled over on the Sixth Ring motorway yesterday. Cranes had to be called in to set it back on its wheels. No one was injured. Photo by Ahmed Al Burini.

Doctors to be insured

Check on authenticity of medical reports

OFFICIAL sources, quoted by a local daily, have said that an ad-hoc committee will be formed shortly for the purpose of studying all medical reports submitted to ministries, establishments, and government departments on the basis of which many employees were exempted from doing certain duties within their jobs.

The sources said that exemptions made in this way had come to form a formidable phenomenon, as the number of employees in various ministries and public establishments, exempted from work on the grounds of these reports, has reached a big proportion and is increasing. The sources described the phenomenon as "very dangerous."

Punishment

The sources added that several government ministries and agencies had complained to the Ministry of Public Health about employees seeking certain work exemptions through fake medical reports, requesting the reconsideration of all such reports so far issued. The complaint also requested the punish-

ment of those who were instrumental in the generation of such reports, which would include doctors and employees.

A study on this issue was carried out by the Ministry of Health and covered most of those who were exempted on medical grounds from doing certain jobs or have been granted retirement rights. The sources added that the purpose of the study and the committee is to stop fake medical reports.

Doctors insurance

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Kuwait Institute for medical specialisations, Dr Abdulla Al Refai welcomed any contribution or offers by the local insurance companies to cover doctors at the Ministry of Health with an insurance scheme. The Al Refai said that two local insurance companies have presented offers to insure ministry doctors.

He said that the ministry had already contacted a non-profit British establishment and asked it to cover doctors in Kuwait with an insurance scheme. He added that the ministry supplied the establishment which is not an insurance company, with necessary informa-

tion including number of cases filed against doctors, number of cases won against them in courts and others rejected in addition to number of doctors and other necessary information. He said that the ministry is awaiting a reply.

Refai said that the ministry would give priority to the local companies provided their offers be at least equal to the offers of the British non-profitable establishment. He added that no doubt, dealing with local companies is preferred by the ministry than dealing with foreign companies.

Refai said that medical insurance is part of the doctors rights against the professions risks and dangers. He added that any doctor can face such dangers and may be legally sued on committing mistakes. He said that some patients file cases in courts against doctors, admitting that some of them were right but most were untrue and these are motivated by the desire to have compensation. Refai announced yesterday that Kuwaiti courts are looking into 16 different cases filed against doctors.

Soviet floating hospital to visit Gulf

THE director of the Soviet Optical Floating Hospital Vladimir Hawou arrives in Kuwait at the head of a medical delegation on May 11 to discuss arrangements with Public Health Ministry officials regarding the proposed visit by the floating hospital to Kuwaiti shores, registration of applicants seeking treatment for eye ailments and other medical and professional issues.

Sources close to the ministry say that the floating hospital staff of specialised doctors could perform as many as 100 operations per day, and that the floating hospital is currently anchored at a West German port.

Sources added that the floating hospital will leave West Germany in a few days' time and that its first voyage will be to the Black Sea and first station in the Gulf region will be the UAE during next December.

75 per cent of Kuwaiti youth suffer heart problems

WITHIN its activities for the academic year 1988/1989, the students and Trainees Affairs Bureau at the Business College organised a cultural seminar on Sport, Nutrition and Medicine.

The seminar was attended by Dr Mustafa Jawhar, Dr Shalabi

Mohammed and Dr Mohamed Othman from the Basic Education Faculty, the head of Training Affairs, Dr Abdulaziz Al Ahmed and a number of teaching staff at the Business College and Basic Education Faculty.

Obesity

Jawhar talked about the obesity problem in Kuwait and related diseases. He said that about 75 per cent of Kuwaiti youth were suffering from heart diseases due to cholesterol in the

blood. Statistics indicate that about 58 per cent of the women are obese, while 85 per cent of the men suffering weight increase, and about 90 per cent of diabetics are obese.

Shalabi has suggested that the practice of sporting exercises was a wholesome preventive means to avoid diabetes, blood pressure and heart attacks.

Speaking of the effects of using stimulants in upgrading the physical performance, Mohamed Othman said that the use of such drugs could be dated back to 300 BC when the Greeks used it in their Olympiads. He added, but for the time being the International Olympic Committee is exerting significant efforts to counter the spread of stimulants in the sporting fields.

Treat students gently, urges educationist

THE Director of the Capital Educational Area Khaled Al Sulaihem has confirmed the importance of handling the cheating phenomenon spread among the students during the examinations wisely.

He called on teachers and controllers of the examinations halls to deal gently and quietly with students during the examinations.

In an interview with a local daily following a meeting presided over by him which was attended by the principals of secondary schools in the Capital Area, the official called for preserving the students' sentiments which were mostly susceptible to tension during the examination hours. He confirmed the importance of spreading awareness among the students prior to the examination process by clarifying the negative aspects of cheating in examinations and the penalties to be applied in case any student is caught red handed.

Likewise, the official informed the importance of handling weak standards among teachers by the school administration.

He disclosed that the unified examination schedules for this year had been approved and distributed and all education areas will get a public opinion poll on the subject after the exams.

Sulaihem said that he discussed in his meeting with the principals the estimated budgets of the secondary schools and the students density at each school.

KISR, MEW undertake sea water treatment project

KUWAIT Institute for Scientific Research along with the Ministry of Electricity and Water will implement a project on applying the super percolation method in the treatment of surface sea water. The method depends on the use of special films with advanced equipment.

The general director of KISR Ahmad Al Jassar said that the institute will implement three research projects on sea water treatment. The three projects come within the framework of the institute's research plans in

the development of sea water treatment technology with the reverse osmosis method.

One of the projects which deals with the chemical treatment of sea water is being supported by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science which started implementation last Oct 1988 and will continue for three years. The second project, at its final implementation stage deals with the use of coastal wells for the production of desalination water feeding units. This method uses ordinary filtration of sea

water without the use of chemical compounds.

Jassar pointed that the three projects will yield important results in order to choose the most adequate methods and less costly for sea water treatment. He added that initial results of the three projects showed a good chance that they may be implemented successfully on a bigger scale.

Jassar also said that the institute designed a special programme for water research in its five year plan. A report publis-

hed recently by the institute explained that Kuwait suffers from a shortage in natural fresh water resources and that the available resources are limited.

The large increase in the population during the past three decades has imposed a higher demand on water. The general director pointed out that the total daily drinking water consumption increased from 1.8 to 105.4 million imperial gallons from 1957 until 1986. The daily consumption of brackish water increased from 1.4 to 36.6 million

imperial gallons during the same period.

With the sharp increase of energy prices, desalination processes applied at Kuwait plants became costly and it became necessary to search for more economical methods characterised with less dependence on energy resources.

The reverse osmosis method proved to have a 90 per cent operation efficiency and with less cost. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research played an important role in the development of

the reverse osmosis technology and was able to produce and develop sophisticated desalination films that helped accomplish a 25 per cent reduction in fresh water production costs.

The fast development in the technology of reverse osmosis pushed several GCC states to co-operate in establishing three new desalination stations with a production capacity of 30 million gallons daily. These three stations require only half the energy used in operating ordinary desalination plants.

It is hoped that the unified examination schedules for this year will be approved and distributed and all education areas will get a public opinion poll on the subject after the exams.

Sulaihem said that he discussed in his meeting with the principals the estimated budgets of the secondary schools and the students density at each school.

SEASUNAL TIMES

FLIGHTS TO INDIA

| TO BOMBAY | FLT. NO | DAY | DEP. | ARR. | ACFT |
|-----------|---------|-----|-------|----------------|------|
| AIR50 | 2245 | MON | 0510* | A310 D | |
| AIR52 | 2245 | TUE | 0510* | A310 D | |
| AIR54 | 2245 | WED | 0510* | A310 D | |
| AIR56 | 2245 | THU | 0510* | A310 D | |
| AIR58 | 2245 | FRI | 0510* | A310 D | |
| AIR62 | 2245 | SUN | 0800* | A310 VIA DELHI | |

| TO DELHI | FLT. NO | DAY | DEP. | ARR. | ACFT |
|---------------|---------|-----|-------|-----------|------|
| AIR58 | 2245 | FRI | 0935* | A310 | |
| AIR60 | 2245 | SUN | 0900* | A310 D | |
| AIR50/503 MON | 2245 | MON | 1145* | A310/L6 | |
| AIR54/807 WED | 2245 | WED | 1020* | A310/A310 | |

| TO TRIVANDRUM | FLT. NO | DAY | DEP. | ARR. | ACFT |
|---------------|---------|-----|-------|-----------|------|
| AIR55 | 0745 | FRI | 1535 | A310 | |
| AIR50/504 MON | 2245 | MON | 0915* | A310/A310 | |
| AIR52/602 TUE | 2245 | TUE | 0900* | A310/A310 | |
| AIR58/156 THU | 2245 | THU | 0930* | A310/A310 | |

| TO GOA | FLT. NO | DAY | DEP. | ARR. | ACFT |
|--------------|---------|-----|-------|-----------|------|
| AIR50 | 2245 | MON | 0930* | A310/A310 | |
| AIR52/62 SUN | 2245 | SUN | 153 | | |

Call for selective immigration policy

(Continued from Page 1)

The report in which the Higher Planning Council has approved Kuwait's long-term development strategy, attributed Kuwait's fast progress to the stability of its political system and the solidarity and support of the people to its rulers. It said that this helped in building a state with an important position at various Arab, Islamic and international levels.

Kuwait has completed the building of its infrastructure specially in legislation and organisations, which employ highly qualified personnel. Both are very important for economic and social development. The availability of huge oil reserves and resources in addition to the many industrial projects based on it, provide the flexibility factor in the financial requirements needed for any development plan.

One of the characteristic features of Kuwaiti society is that a large proportion of its population are youths and enjoy a high birth growth rate, thus spreading realistic and optimistic reasons for more contributions to the work-force from its citizens.

But the report warned that the previous positive factors face what it described as "very dangerous" challenges. It said that studies show that these elements will take new dimensions in the future if no serious attempts are made to confront them. These, it added, form the challenge that necessitated the working out of a long-term development strategy for Kuwait.

The development — and progress, that occurred in the country — necessitated bringing in a large number of expatriate manpower. They contributed to providing health, educational, social services and building the state's infrastructure. This in turn helped to bring in more expatriates. It was followed by a stage where expatriates were looking for stability in Kuwait which meant bringing their families — thus increasing the rate of expatriates dependency. This made the various economic activities depend mainly upon the expatriate manpower. The change in the life mode of the Kuwaitis and the country as a whole, helped this line grow stronger.

However, the report said that most of the expatriate manpower in the country are unskilled and are of low educational standards. It added that although the arrival of the expatriate manpower helped provide the necessary services in the country, their continuous influx created an imbalance in the demographic structure.

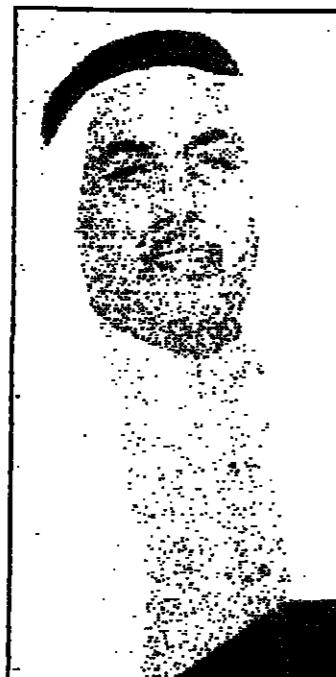
It said, whereas the Kuwaiti population increased either through natural growth or granting nationality on two occasions between 1970-1985, expatriates increased by two and a half times during the same period. Consequently, the percentage of Kuwaitis dropped from 47 per cent to only 40 per cent during the same period.

This demographic imbalance has been accompanied with a number of phenomena that are not suitable for the future ambitions of the Kuwaiti society. The report cited the continuous immigration of expatriate manpower to Kuwait, which continued unabated. This has resulted in a sharp drop in the percentage of Kuwaitis in the society to a dangerous extent that threatens the stability of the society.

The report added that the domination of alien traditions, customs and other social values of the expatriates threaten the identity of the Kuwaiti society. The plan added that the stability of the expatriate manpower for long periods in the country resulted in the increase of the dependence (family) rate thus increasing the cost of the expatriate employees through the free social services provided to them.

The report also said that the increase in the number of expatriate manpower would automatically reduce the contribution of Kuwaitis in the workforce, thus allowing the expatriates to dominate and control the various economic activities, which is usually accompanied by undesirable results, in the administrative and security fields. It added that the increase in the number of expatriate manpower was never related or resulted in an increase in production. On the contrary, the report emphasised, there was a clear increase in production where modern technology was employed, rather than a large number of employees. The report said that the main challenge is the country's ability to deal with this imbalance, which it said resulted mainly from "not adopting a selective policy in bringing expatriate manpower."

Kuwait must be cautious in dealing with its oil wealth, which



Fouad Mulla Hussein

ment strategy which means an increase of investment in manpower resources by developing their qualifications and knowledge that will lead to a reduction in the dependence on government spending. This will also help to develop the economic activity. This will require positive support to the development of the private sector and national manpower.

Due to the limited size and nature of its resources, Kuwait will need to have strong links with the international community. To achieve this a suitable mode of integration among similar activities in the Gulf and co-ordination among the integrated activities with other Arab countries should be instituted.

The long-term strategy depends on the following principles:

- 1. Developing national manpower.
- 2. Development of the private sector.
- 3. Dependence on external investment.
- 4. Following planning policy.
- Developing national manpower:

The strategy is based on education, administrative development and following a policy of selective immigration, to develop national manpower.

Education: Education is given special concern by the state which is evident in the increasing numbers of educational and training institutions and developments in the educational sector in general. Education has played a key role in increasing the numbers of educated people and development of society. The development of the Kuwaiti individual requires paying more attention to education at an early stage in order to imbibe basic values into coming generations.

The strategic trend to build the productive Kuwait should focus on the quality of educational output. This requires developing of the educational system by adopting modern educational methods and an increase in skills. It also requires a system to encourage talented persons and support professional training centres that offer national manpower in the required fields.

The Administrative Development: One of the basic principles suggested is a change in the present concept towards employment in the government sector. This can partially be achieved by training and education. But it is also connected with a developed administrative system that links productivity and wages in the government sector.

Government productivity is not commensurate with expenditure of the government sector which requires the increase and development of performance of the administrative staff by following short and long-term policies aimed at developing skills of the senior staff in the government sector. Training is considered an essential element in the work of administrative development to increase the qualification and abilities of the public servants. The public servants should be encouraged to pursue higher studies, the plan said.

Policy of Selective Immigration: The achievement of aims of the suggested strategy should be supported by a policy of selective immigration to bring skilled expatriate manpower that helps in educating and training Kuwaitis in some activities in order to replace the expatriate manpower and also aims at reducing non-skilled manpower. This policy will help in controlling the defect and imbalance in the population.

It also aims at establishing the national identity for the coming generations, which is very important because the state will continue in its policy to import expatriate manpower due to population and economic situations. This imported manpower will have a cultural effect on the Kuwaiti society. Amendments can be made by the educational, informational and cultural efforts to preserve the culture and maintain the identity of the national wealth.

● The Economic dimension: The treatment of economic and population situations in Kuwait shows importance of changing the economic structure. The changing of the economic structure aims at creating a structure depending on highly qualified and skilled manpower.

This requires citizens to work in jobs requiring high skills and professions that require high wages and at the same time reduce dependence on unskilled expatriate manpower. This change requires the adoption of an economic policy that motivates citizens more productive and enhancing their professional skills.

The building of the Kuwaiti productive workforce is the main issue in the long-term develop-

Interior Ministry co-ordinates security tasks

DIRECTOR of the Interior Ministry operations department Lieut Col Mahmoud Mohammad Al Dosari said that the department's functions included emergency security tasks, co-ordination of telecommunications among the various top-level security organs, such as the army, national guards, ambulance and fire brigades.

There is a special emergency security committee headed by the Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem, which meets as required. The department sees to the furnishing of the meeting with all needed services, including maps and top-secret information as required to make the necessary security decision, Dosari said.

He added that the department receives

reports from the five governorates and various security organs on a 24-hour basis, which are referred to the relevant authorities. These reports include those filed by citizens or residents on problems and suspicions, Dosari added.

Training

The department will co-ordinate with relevant government departments regarding national celebrations and official functions and arrange for receptions of official guests and related security measures, VIP protection and supervision.

The department staff will regularly receive specialised training, both in and outside the country, in the performance of their duties in

order to optimise the level of their efficiency and train them in the use of modern technologies and latest security tactics, the official said.

He added that such training courses had been held in Sweden, Finland, Egypt, the US, Japan and South Korea, and that discussions covered tactics in war and peace times.

He pointed out that the department had intensified security measures during Eid, which is the season for much travelling and outing, whereby to guarantee protection for all against mishaps.

He said the department received reports on tele. 4818600, 4818601 and 4818000, and that the department staff are ready to receive incoming reports round the clock.

Sheikh Isa to visit Cairo May 16

MANAMA, May 8, (KUNA): Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esamat Abdel Meguid said that Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa will visit Cairo May 16 and will meet with President Hosni Mubarak.

In an interview with Bahraini Daily "Al-Ayyam", Abdel Meguid added that the awaited encounter between the two Arab leaders "will open broader horizons for joint Arab action in the various fields between the two countries."

He wished for more Arab solidarity to snatch the Lebanese people out of their "bloody tragedies," noting that it will also reflect positively on the peace issue in the Gulf region.

On links among the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Dr Abdel Meguid said that next ACC summit in Alexandria will look into developing and reinforcing cooperation among the three Arab congregations.

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No price rise for NHA plots, says Shaheen

THERE is no truth in rumours that the government intends to increase the prices of plots to be distributed to citizens for housing projects, according to a senior official.

The State of Kuwait is taking a comprehensive view of all future issues pertaining to the housing needs of Kuwaitis. However state plans are being hindered due to the scarcity of land suitable for establishing housing projects, Dr Majeed Ibrahim Al Shaheen, the director-general at National Housing Authority (NHA) said in an interview with *Al-Khalid*.

Involving the active support of the private sector this area will positively contribute towards accelerating the development of the housing projects. Relevant studies to organise the involvement of the private sector in this field will soon be finalised.

On future plans, Shaheen said that the authority was preparing necessary plans to take into account the volume of demand as well as the area of suitable land. The first five-year-plan for 1975-1980 has been based on the major housing projects executed in remote areas in view of the abundance of government lands.

For the second five-year-plan for 1981-1985 there has been an increase in the number of houses allocated to the middle income group. A total of 30,151 housing units were built since the establishment of the NHA in 1986 and distributed to 21 residential

labour and raw material market. The input of the government in the private sector is essential to supervise these activities, the official added.

He went on to say that the NHA is not responsible for the delay in providing some services to the residential plots. The NHA's previous experience on housing projects implemented during the last five years faced no problems, Shaheen said.

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For the second five-year-plan for 1981-1985 there has been an increase in the number of houses allocated to the middle income group. A total of 30,151 housing units were built since the establishment of the NHA in 1986 and distributed to 21 residential

areas. With regard to the third five-year plan 1986-1991, this plan had been designed to face new developments in the Kuwaiti housing arena, the official was quoted as saying.

This plan aims at minimising the waiting period for obtaining government houses by the citizens. The plan also aims at constructing about 25,390 housing units including 61,710 houses, 1,088 flats and distributing about 7,592 plots. These fall within 12 housing projects to be established in different areas of the country.

Meanwhile, Shaheen acknowledged that despite all the efforts exerted for solving the housing problem, Kuwait still faces some problems which are mostly represented in the increasing demand for such services. This had resulted in the NHA to think of resorting to vertical expansion i.e. the flats system, but this idea had received no approval from the public.

In this context, the official



555
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BLESSED is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact — George Eliot, English Novelist (1819-1880).

OPINION

Hands off Lebanon

BECAUSE Michel Aoun is important to the Lebanese people, they do not desire to have any outside interference in their internal affairs. Aoun is still in power and is even capable of continuing in his position in spite of the fact that even one thousand and one hands are competing to finish him off.

They want to kill him — just as they did with many others who differed with their opinion.

The continuation of General Aoun in power is an indication that the Lebanese people are disgusted with war and detest interference in their internal affairs under any pretext.

The question which arises here is: In what sense or by what right are we interfering in the affairs of the Lebanese — as if we are agents for its sects? Since the inception of Lebanon, it has remained as it is without any change and no one has intervened to solve the sectarian disputes that occur between the Lebanese. They used to fight each other, then sit at the negotiation table and arrive at a solution, hug each other and everything was normalised.

The wars that erupted in Lebanon have never been lengthy such as the present ongoing one. Perhaps the reason for this is that it is not the Lebanese thinking or even sectarian differences which are involved. It is the political differences of the Arab world — added to it is the Iranian interference which through Arab participation became involved in the Lebanese crisis in spite of the fact that they do not speak Arabic.

They only know that Lebanon is located on the Mediterranean which is very strategic to them and are quite ready to pay billions to strengthen their presence. Whether these billions be in the form of cash or oil is not important. What is vital is to have a footing in the Arab lands and be capable of interfering in its internal affairs.

The Lebanese interest in seeing Aoun continue means that the general wants Lebanon free and independent without any foreign interference of whatever kind.

The Arabs are now fed up with the view of bloodshed in Lebanon. It is painful to see Lebanese children being killed by missiles that are fired by ignorant soldiers who receive orders from outside Lebanon.

All the Lebanese people earnestly desire is to have a free and independent Lebanon without any form of excuses.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Where was George?

Attention shifts to Bush's role

By Michael Gelb

WITH the verdict in on Oliver North the issue now is a pardon, and for President Bush the time to decide is near.

Bush says he hasn't even thought about whether to pardon the former Marine lieutenant colonel and White House National Security aide, convicted of destroying documents and obstructing a congressional inquiry in connection with the Iran-Contra scandal.

North faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a \$750,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for June 23.

But with the verdict in, Bush must soon face the political risks in choosing between demands from much of his conservative constituency that he pardon North, and the chance that clemency may look like a payoff to the man who took the rap for his superiors — then-president Ronald Reagan and Vice-President Bush.

"Bush faces a public perception he's been lying about his role in the affair — he has to be careful not to feed that," said Republican political strategist Kevin Phillips. "Whatever he does, the new public attention is a negative."

On the issue of a pardon, Bush must choose between his avowal that ethical conduct is one of his top priorities and his often-stated belief that North is a patriot.

"He made some mistakes. But he believed passionately in something. Ollie took the heat," Bush said during last year's presidential election campaign.

Although a pardon of North would be unlikely to incite the same passions that resulted from former president Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon in connection with the Watergate scandal, it could be seen as a reward.

A poll published on Friday in the newspaper USA Today said a majority of Americans support clemency for North, but a Los Angeles Times poll conducted two weeks ago showed two-thirds of those surveyed believe North was covering up for Bush and Reagan.

"People may feel Ollie should be pardoned, but that doesn't mean they'll like George Bush for doing it. People will say, Hey, I know why he's doing that," Phillips said.

White House officials say they hope public interest will wane after the immediate flurry of publicity accompanying the North verdict. They cite the Los Angeles Times poll showing more than half the public has little interest in the scandal, in which arms were secretly sold to Iran and some of the profits diverted to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"The issue has been around enough that no matter what they believe, people have made up their minds," one senior Bush aide said.

Bush strategists say that he surmounted the scandal, which plunged the popular Reagan into the worst crisis of his presidency, to win election to the White House and that the political impact should diminish further as time passes.

"I think it was set to rest in the last election," Bush said when asked if he wished to settle questions about his involvement in the matter.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said his advice to the president was "leave them (the Iran-Contra questions) to the historians ... and get on with the business at hand."

But with North expected to appeal his conviction on three of 12 counts and scheduled to testify in the upcoming trial of former national security adviser John Poindexter, the issue is likely to dog Bush for some time to come.

"It keeps the whole issue alive, it keeps it in the public eye," one White House official acknowledged in a private conversation.

Documents released in the North trial suggested that Bush helped to arrange a deal in which the United States provided economic assistance to Honduras in exchange for that country's help to the Contras at a time Congress had barred direct US aid to the rebels.

Bush has heatedly denied arranging such a deal and complained that "there has been much needless, mindless speculation about my word of honour."

But several polls say half of the public thinks Bush, who says he had no involvement in efforts to circumvent the ban on aid to the Contras, has lied about his role.

And leaders of the congressional committee that investigated the scandal in 1987 are demanding a new accounting from the White House of why documents that turned up at North's trial were not provided to Congress.

"Iran-Contra is an event like Watergate or the assassination of John Kennedy it will be explored for years," said Indiana Congressman Lee Hamilton, the Democrat who chaired the House of Representatives panel that investigated the scandal.

"President Bush and President Reagan still have some explaining to do," he added.

Protesting students rattle elderly Chinese leaders

Beijing looking for a scapegoat

By Mark O'Neill

CHINA'S escalating student protests may claim victims among the country's top leaders but not before the Sino-Soviet summit meeting later this month, diplomats have predicted last week.

Tens of thousands of students defied official warnings and appeals for stability with an illegal march for democratic reforms through Peking for the second time in eight days.

Students also demonstrated in China's biggest city, Shanghai, and in at least three provincial capitals.

Diplomats predicted someone would take responsibility for the flagrant disobedience of government and communist party orders during three weeks of nationwide student unrest.

"No one due to meet (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev will go," a diplomat said. "But, after the summit, there will be changes, either at the level of the Peking (municipal) government or at the highest level."

Gorbachev will be visiting China from May 15 to 18 for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years.

China did not move against the students because it did not want blood on its hands before the crucial meeting and wanted to be seen as tolerant as the Kremlin towards dissent, diplomats said.

In protesting, students have defied warnings from the highest level, the most recent from party chief Zhao Ziyang in a speech to China's top leaders on Wednesday.

"If we lose stability, it will be too late to be sorry. We will not achieve any of what we hope to achieve and all that we have done will disappear overnight," Zhao warned.

"Without the leadership of the communist party ... China has no hope and no future," he said.

At the same time Zhao, seen as belonging to the party's reformist wing, praised aspirations for democracy of China's youth and called on young people to work with the party.

His moderate words, seen as encouragement by some students, were in sharp contrast to a fierce party commentary issued in all major newspapers and on radio last week.

"This is a grave political struggle facing the whole party and Chinese citizens of all nationalities," the People's Daily thundered in an editorial that drove students to the streets in protest the next day.

Chinese journalists said the conflicting signals reflected divisions among the leadership but it was not clear if Zhao was trying to use the student movement to bolster his position.

Students demanded the government recognise their own independent union, which has been declared an illegal body.

"China does not want to recognise the union because it sees it as the start of a Chinese solidarity," a Western diplomat said, referring to the free Polish trade union.

"If it were recognised, what would be next, an independent trade union, an independent newspaper?" he said.

A Polish delegation, in Peking over the weekend, briefed its Chinese guests on how Warsaw had dealt with unrest and dissent.

"The most likely candidates for the sack are the chief of the communist youth league or the party's propaganda department," the diplomat said.

Chinese journalists recalled that the last wave of student protests contributed to the forced resignation of Zhao's predecessor, Hu Yaobang, the reformist victim of party hardliners who died on April 15, triggering the campus unrest.

Another diplomat said it was hard to see Zhao or premier Li Peng losing their jobs over the protests.

"The whole leadership is in trouble. The dismissal of either of these two would mean a loss of confidence at home and abroad," he said.

He said paramount leader Deng Xiaoping may have intended to step down from his last position, chairman of the party's military commission, after the summit but this could be difficult, as it would be seen as bowing to student pressure.

Deng, 85 this year and the architect of China's reforms 10 years ago, has been attacked in name and lampooned in posters and jokes.

Diplomats predicted the party would match tough words with deeds after the summit.

"It is clear from official statements that Peking is seeking a scapegoat among foreigners accused of interfering in China and prominent intellectuals accused of egging on the students. Once Gorbachev has left, I expect expulsions (from the party) and arrests," one of the diplomats added.



Striking students in Beijing.

Everyone wants miracles

Big task ahead for Jordan government

By Allistair Lyon

JORDAN'S new government faces formidable tasks after riots in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan exposed discontent with austerity and political constraints.

"There are difficult times ahead," one cabinet minister said. "The economic problems have not gone away and we need to restore trust between the government and the people."

Desire to avoid upsetting Jordanians squeezed by a soaring cost of living appears to lie behind a decision to cancel an international car rally scheduled for mid-May.

The organisers said unfavourable circumstances had prompted them to call off the event, which would have taken foreign and local drivers through southern areas hit by the April riots.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker was sworn in a week ago after five days of protests over IMF-inspired price rises forced his predecessor, Zeid Al-Rifa'i, to resign.

A senior official said 11 people had been killed in the violence and 650 had been detained, though all but 70 had since been freed. The total does not include communists held for alleged incitement. Relatives say they number 120.

King Hussein, who cut short a foreign tour to reassert his grip, has been receiving delegations of minor notables from some of the riot-hit towns. He has not visited any himself.

The presidents of Iraq and North Yemen and Kuwait's Crown Prince have voiced support after the riots and the king met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd during a pilgrimage to Mecca this week.

There is no word yet on whether Arab states are willing to make cash donations to Jordan, to pay off arrears owed under a 10-year agreement that expired last year or to resume subsidies.

Saudi Arabia, the only donor to fulfill its pledges, gave Amman almost \$360 million a year from 1978 to 1988.

Economists say even substantial Arab aid would only ease, not solve the economic problems of Jordan, a resource-poor country of three million. The kingdom is burdened by at least \$6 billion in foreign debt, chronic trade and budget deficits, and a severe shortage of foreign exchange.

So far the government has unveiled no new policies.

"Everyone wants miracles from us," a cabinet member said. "But it takes time to draw up well-thought-out decisions."

When ministers get down to work this week after the Eid Al-Fitr feast that ends Ramadan, they must tackle the problem of how to implement unavoidable economic reforms without triggering further challenges to Jordan's traditional stability.

Bankers expect changes shortly at the central bank, but reports that former governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi will return to his old job remain unconfirmed.

The IMF wants cuts in the budget deficit over five years in return for a standby IMF credit of \$125 million, a World Bank loan of \$150 million and help with debt rescheduling.

The king instructed the government to weed out favouritism and corruption, and to deepen a dialogue with the people.

The letter extends a promise of greater democracy with the return of parliament, dissolved in July when Jordan broke legal and administrative ties with the Israel-occupied West Bank.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Domestic scene complicates telecom dispute compromise

Japan lacks 'central power structure'

TOKYO, May 8, (Reuters): Lack of strong political leadership in Tokyo and divisions among bureaucrats are making it tough for Japan to avoid US sanctions for alleged unfair trade in telecommunications, some trade analysts said.

"We've got a headless monster here," said Darrel Whitten, industry analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities (Japan).

"There is no leadership among the politicians and the bureaucrats continue to shoot at random."

Pledge

Minister of International Trade and Industry Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said today that Japan should reply to US demands for access to the Japanese cellular telephone market for Motorola by May 27, which would be before Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's expected resignation.

Takeshita's pledge to resign, and the

ruling Democratic Party (LDP)'s worries over stemming the damage from the scandal which led to his downfall, make it hard for Japan to craft a reply to satisfy Washington, the analysts said.

Takeshita said on April 25 that because of the Recruit scandal, he and his cabinet would resign after the 1989/90 budget is passed. The scandal centres around scores of public figures who received gifts or contributions from the Recruit publishing firm, allegedly in return for favours.

The budget is expected to be passed by May 27.

Mitsuzuka, who returned on Sunday from Washington, told reporters: "I think for the sake of a relationship of trust, it is our responsibility to say by May 27... what we are going to do." But he said a final decision must be made by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT). MPT has so far rejected US demands

that it allow Motorola's Japanese joint venture to offer cellular telephone service in the lucrative Tokyo-Nagoya market as well as in western and northern Japan.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which lost a battle with the MPT over control of the telecommunications business in the early 1980s, is keen for a settlement of the dispute with the United States.

Power

Possible targets for sanctions because of it include cosmetics, computers, and tape recorders as well as telecommunications gear.

The Trade Ministry would like to see the makers of these products spared any fall out from the telecommunications spat.

MITI appears to have little power to force MPT to compromise, some trade analysts said. And with a lame duck

prime minister the political leadership to bring about a solution is lacking, they said.

"The LDP is more worried about its derriere than what's happening to trade," Whitten said.

Some other trade experts said that despite the political situation and bureaucratic splits, Japan could still fashion a compromise that would satisfy Washington.

"Theories that Japan lacks a central power structure or chief decision maker are irrelevant," said John Stern, executive director of the US Electronics Industry Japan office.

"When confronted with an irresistible argument, Japan makes lightning adjustments," he said.

US Trade Representative Carla Hills said yesterday that America is ready to retaliate for violations of trade agreements, but would prefer to negotiate.



Share traders pile over each other at a trading counter of the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as shares rose to a new record, above 34,000 for the first time, ending the morning session at 34,051.49. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gold strengthens

Dollar mixed

Tokyo stocks surge again

Record high in active trade

LONDON, May 8, (AP): The dollar was mixed in European trading late this morning. Gold prices moved up.

Traders said foreign exchange trading was calm with the dollar moving within a narrow range.

One Rome trader said "movements were minimal."

The dollar remained well supported by expectations that US interest rates will not fall and may even rise a bit because US economic growth is not slowing enough for the US Federal Reserve to ease monetary policy," it added.

The report from the central bankers' central bank was based on information from banks in the BIS reporting area, comprising 18 industrialised countries and seven offshore banking centres.

Between 1983 and 1988 the dollar's share of cross-border lending by these banks contracted to 52 from 72 per cent.

The BIS gave five reasons for the growing importance of non-dollar currencies:

— Financial deregulation in a number of countries had greatly increased the international use of certain currencies.

— The growing international presence of certain non-US banks, partly due to the dollar's depreciation.

— Lower interest rates on most non-dollar currencies had boosted borrowing demand in them rather than the dollar.

— Rapid growth of countries around the Pacific rim, which favoured the yen.

— Debt rescheduling and reduction programmes in developing nations had often involved shifting from dollars to other currencies.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1988

LONDON

(LONDON STOCKS)

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| INCHCAPE | 268/0 |
| JAGUAR | 291/0 |
| KINGFISHER | 297/0 |
| LADBROKE | 579/0 |
| LAND SEC'S | 586/0 |
| NAME | LAST |
| ABBEY LIFE | 279/0 |
| ADT LTD | 169.5 |
| ALD LYONS | 461/0 |
| AMSTRAD | 112.0 |
| ARGYLL GP | 192/6 |
| ASDA GP | 165.5 |
| MARKS & SP | 169/0 |
| BAA | 383/0 |
| BTR | 377/0 |
| BAR IND'S | 540/0 |
| BARCLAYS | 452/0 |
| BASS | 963/5 |
| BEAVER | 194/0 |
| BEECHAMS | 627/0 |
| BERISFORD | 55.50 |
| BICC PLC | 522/0 |
| BLUE ARW | 98.0 |
| BLUE CIRC | 558.0 |
| BOC GP | 493/4 |
| BOOTS CO | 294/0 |
| BPO IND'S | 241/0 |
| BR COMM | 208/0 |
| BR AIRWAY | 203/0 |
| BR AEROSP | 600/0 |
| BR GAS RG | 180.0 |
| BR LAND | 348/0 |
| B.P. | 281/0 |
| B.P. FP | 281.0 |
| BR STEEL | 86/0 |
| BR TELCOM | 268/0 |
| BURMASH OIL | 562/0 |
| BURTON | 213/0 |
| CABLE & WIRE | 511/0 |
| CADBURY'S | 361/6 |
| CALOR GRP | 397/0 |
| CRILIN CO | 873/0 |
| COATS VIT | 157/6 |
| COOKSON'S | 316.0 |
| COURTAULD | 324/0 |
| DALGETY | 350/0 |
| DIIXONS | 137/0 |
| ENG CHINA | 505/0 |
| ENTER OIL | 547/0 |
| FKI BABCK | 165/0 |
| FERRANTI | 109/0 |
| FISONS | 296.0 |
| GATEWAY | 194.0 |
| GEN ACCID | 950.0 |
| GEN ELEC | 236.0 |
| GLAXO | 365.0 |
| GRAMADA | 343.0 |
| GLOBE | 173.5 |
| GLYNNED | 305/0 |
| GUARD RYL | 210/0 |
| GNKIL | 385.0 |
| GUINNESS | 475.0 |
| HAMERSA | 792/0 |
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| BLUE CIRC | 558.0 |
| BOC GP | 493/4 |
| BOOTS CO | 294/0 |
| BPO IND'S | 241/0 |
| BR COMM | 208/0 |
| BR AIRWAY | 203/0 |
| BR AEROSP | 600/0 |
| BR GAS RG | 180.0 |
| BR LAND | 348/0 |
| B.P. | 281/0 |
| B.P. FP | 281.0 |
| BR STEEL | 86/0 |
| BR TELCOM | 268/0 |
| BURMASH OIL | 562/0 |
| BURTON | 213/0 |
| CABLE & WIRE | 511/0 |
| CADBURY'S | 361/6 |
| CALOR GRP | 397/0 |
| CRILIN CO | 873/0 |
| COATS VIT | 157/6 |
| COOKSON'S | 316.0 |
| COURTAULD | 324/0 |
| DALGETY | 350/0 |
| DIIXONS | 137/0 |
| ENG CHINA | 505/0 |
| ENTER OIL | 547/0 |
| FKI BABCK | 165/0 |
| FERRANTI | 109/0 |
| FISONS | 296.0 |
| GATEWAY | 194.0 |
| GEN ACCID | 950.0 |
| GEN ELEC | 236.0 |
| GLAXO | 365.0 |
| GRAMADA | 343.0 |
| GLOBE | 173.5 |
| GLYNNED | 305/0 |
| GUARD RYL | 210/0 |
| GNKIL | 385.0 |
| GUINNESS | 475.0 |
| HAMERSA | 792/0 |
| HANSON | 193/4 |
| HARRIS C | 175/0 |
| HAWK SID | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1989

International Bond Highlights

LONDON: Barclays Bank PLC, part of Barclays PLC, said it plans to raise 200 mln dls in the US through issue of fixed-rate non-cumulative preference shares which will be represented by American depositary shares. (XLGK 1348) Oslo: Norway's Central Bank and minority Labour government said the domestic bond market would be reopened for foreign investors from Tuesday, May 9, and that the key overnight lending rate would be set by half a point. (XLGD 1342) Bari: Banco San Paolo di Torino said. (XLGO 1417) London: The coupon on the 200 mln, four-year equity warrant Eurobond for onward Kashiyama Co Ltd "Kasy," reported earlier today from the Bank of Tokyo. The coupon on the 200 mln, 4.56 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (XLEZ 1045) London: The Bank of Tokyo has been indicated at 4.56 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (XLEZ 1045) London: IBM International Finance NV is issuing a 125 mln ECU Eurobond due June 15, 1992 paying 8-3/4 pct at 101-1/2 pct, lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd said. This confirms an earlier report by bond market sources. (XLGY 0859) London: Nipkai Electric Railway Co Ltd is issuing a 140 mln dl. equity warrant Eurobond due May 31, 1990 paying 10 pct and priced at 101 pct, lead manager 4-5/8 pct. (XLGY 0825) London: General Re Corp is issuing a 100 mln dl. Eurobond due June 1, 1992 paying 8-3/4 pct and priced at 101.10 pct, lead manager Goldman Sachs International Corp said. This confirms an earlier report by bond market sources. (XLCP 0827)

BOMBAY

| | PR.CLOSE | OPEN | CLOSE | GLINDIA | 101.50 | 100 | 100 | HUK IRON | 115 | 113 | 115 |
|-------------|----------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| ACC | 309 | 308.50 | 308 | GNFC | 39.50 | 40 | 38 | NAT INDEX | 388.77 | 391.85 | |
| ALEM CHEM | -- | -- | -- | GRASIN | 132.50 | 132 | 132.50 | NIPPON | 40 | 37 | 38 |
| ALW NIS | -- | -- | -- | GSFC | 142.50 | 140 | 142.50 | NOCIL | 865 | 860 | 852.50 |
| ARI FAB | -- | -- | -- | GUJ ALKL | 71 | 70 | 71 | ORKAY | 22.50 | 22 | 22.50 |
| ASHOK LEY | 81 | 80 | 82 | GUJ HEAVY | 13 | 12.25 | 12.25 | OSHAL AGRO | 77 | 78 | 78 |
| ATLAS COP | 48 | 46 | 48 | HIND CIBA | 1080 | 1060 | 1060 | PEICO | 24 | 24 | 25 |
| AUTO CORP | 83.50 | 80 | 84 | HIND COCOA | 107 | 106.25 | 105 | PONDS | 78.50 | 77 | 78 |
| BAJAJ AUTO | 420 | 415 | 416.25 | HIND LEVER | 82.50 | 81.50 | 82.50 | PREM AUTO | 191.25 | 192.50 | 192.50 |
| BAR RAYON | 460 | 455 | 455 | HIND MOTOR | 45 | 44.50 | 45.25 | RANBAXY | 58.50 | 58.50 | 57 |
| BK BOND | 150 | 148 | 150 | HINDALCO | 315 | 317.50 | 310 | RAY WOOL | 81 | 80 | 81 |
| BLOW PLAST | -- | -- | -- | HOECHST | 860 | 850 | 870 | RECKITT | 190 | 185 | 195 |
| BSE INDEX | 749.75 | 733.50 | 733.50 | KIN ENGG | 81.50 | 81 | 80 | SPIC | 59.50 | 58.50 | 58.50 |
| BURR MEL | 197.50 | 200 | 205 | KIR CINN | 75.50 | 74 | 75 | ST MILLS | 285 | 280 | 290 |
| CANSHIRE | 195 | -- | -- | KSB PUMPS | 380 | 375 | 380 | TATA CHEM | 118 | 118 | 119 |
| CEN ENKA | 2750 | 2730 | 2760 | KINDRAY | 100 | 98 | 99.50 | SESA GOA | 46 | 45 | 46 |
| CED SPG | 1850 | 1830 | 1840 | KIN SH | 96 | 94 | 96.50 | SKF | 2890 | 2850 | 2870 |
| COLGATE | 338.75 | 337.50 | 333.50 | KIN ENGG | 182.50 | 180 | 180 | SPIC | 59.50 | 58.50 | 58.50 |
| CROMT GR | 940 | 925 | 950 | KIR CINN | 75.50 | 74 | 75 | ST MILLS | 285 | 280 | 290 |
| DCH | 12 | 12 | 14 | KSB PUMPS | 380 | 375 | 380 | TATA OIL | 67.50 | 66.25 | 65 |
| DEEP FERT | 28.50 | 28.50 | 28.50 | L AND T | 94 | 95.50 | 92 | TATA POL | 343.75 | 343.75 | 345 |
| DUALOP | 91.25 | 90 | 92.50 | LIPTON | 77 | 77 | 78 | TELECO | 840 | 835 | 835 |
| EI HOTELS | 56.25 | 56 | 56.50 | MAC RUSSEL | 110 | 106.25 | 110 | THAPP AGRO | -- | -- | -- |
| ESCORTS | 65.50 | 64.50 | 64.25 | MAR COATS | 100 | 98 | 100 | TISCO | 1420 | 1412 | 1410 |
| ESKAYEF | 135 | 133.75 | 135 | MARINDRA | 105 | 102 | 102 | VAN ORG | 165 | 164 | 164 |
| ESSAR SPG | 24 | 23.50 | 23.25 | MAS SHARE | 19.50 | 18.75 | 19 | VARELI | 31.25 | 32.50 | 32.50 |
| FOOD SPL | 200 | 197.50 | 200 | NICO | 630 | 620 | 620 | VOLTAS | 680 | 660 | 680 |
| FORBES | 48 | 47 | 49 | MILKFOOD | 325 | -- | -- | WINCO | 28.50 | 28 | 28 |
| GAR POLY | 74.50 | 74 | 74 | MODI | 112.50 | 110 | 107.50 | ZENITH | 56.50 | 56.50 | 56.50 |
| GE SHIPPING | 41.75 | 41.50 | 41.25 | MRF LTD | 430 | 425 | 435 | ZUARI AGRO | 60 | 60 | 62.50 |

FRANKFURT

| STOCK | LAST PR-CLOSE | OPEN | SELL | MITSUBI CP | 1660 | 1660 | OPEN | LC-A | .29 | .30 | .30 |
|------------|---------------|--------|------|-------------|--------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| ACB | 219.0 | 220.6 | | MITSUBI EL | 1130 | 1130 | | LC-B | .30 | .31 | .30 |
| ALLIANZ VR | 1799.0 | 1785.0 | | MITSUBI EST | 2580 | 2550 | | PX-A | .33 | .34 | .33 |
| ANDERSON | 100.0 | 105.5 | | MITSUBI HVY | 1140 | 1130 | | PX-B | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| ANST | 305.4 | 305.4 | | MITSUBI CO | 1210 | 1200 | | PX-C | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| BAYER HYP | 304.5 | 304.2 | | MITSUKOSHI | 2480 | 2480 | | PX-D | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| BAYER VER | 383.00 | 382.00 | | MITSUMI EL | 986 | 985 | | PX-E | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| BBC | 445.0 | 447.0 | | MICHICON | 1700 | 1690 | | PX-F | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| BHF | 467.0 | 469.0 | | MIKKO SEC | 1870 | 1860 | | PX-G | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| BWY | 514.5 | 514.0 | | MIP ELEC | 1800 | 1780 | | PX-H | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| COMMERZBK | 252.8 | 253.0 | | MIP KOKAN | 965 | 948 | | PX-I | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| CONTI GUMM | 266.2 | 268.0 | | MIP OIL | 1680 | 1690 | | PX-J | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| DAIMER BEN | 669.5 | 671.0 | | MIP STEEL | 959 | 951 | | PX-K | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| DEUTSE BNK | 556.0 | 557.0 | | MIS MOTOR | 1540 | 1550 | | PX-L | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| DLW | 558.0 | 559.0 | | MITSCO | 1120 | 1120 | | PX-M | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| DRESDNER B | 327.8 | 326.7 | | MOMA SC | 1120 | 1120 | | PX-N | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| DYB BAKOF | 125.50 | 124.5 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-O | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EZY INDEX | 579.00 | 579.62 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-P | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-Q | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-R | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-S | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-T | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-U | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-V | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-W | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-X | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-Y | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-Z | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-A | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-B | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-C | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-D | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-E | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-F | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050 | 1050 | | PX-G | .34 | .35 | .34 |
| EWI | 358.00 | 358.00 | | MOMA TO | 1050</ | | | | | | |

NSCSA to order four chemical tankers

LONDON, May 8, (KUNA): The Saudi Arabian National Shipping Company (NSCSA) is to order four chemical tankers in what could form part of a joint venture with one of the world's largest carriers, it was reported here on Friday.

The company hopes to capitalise on the petrochemical trade from the Middle East and has held talks with major chemical carriers aimed at reaching a "political pool," said the special-interest newspaper *Lloyd's List*.

Lloyd's quoted NSCSA chief executive Mohammed Al Jarbou who said an agreement was expected in the next few months but would not disclose the likely partner.

The daily said the new vessels were in the 25,000 to 35,000 tonnes range, and that shipyards in West Germany, Spain, Yugoslavia, Japan and South Korea were among those understood to have been asked to tender.

It noted that NSCSA was already involved in petrochemical transportation through its two existing tankers, the UQBA Ibn Nafis and the Al Frabi, the second a joint venture vessel with Unite Arab Shipping. Lloyd's also reported that Al Jarbou had confirmed that NSCSA would be announcing profits for last year of 654 million riyal (\$17.42 million), a major increase on 1987 profits of 12 million riyal.

Iraq to commission 10 docks in southern port

BAGHDAD, May 8, (OPECNA): Ten large docks built at a cost of \$250 million will be commissioned at the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr during the next two months.

According to officials at the Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Communications, the commissioning of these docks will bring the loading and unloading capacities of the Gulf port to well over four million tonnes a year.

They said in the first quarter of the year, more than 180 ships sailed from and to Iraqi Gulf ports with a wide range of import and export goods, including petroleum products, fertilisers, sulphur, cement and other commodities.

After the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war, Iraq allocated about \$900 million for the development of its Gulf ports, involving the construction of 13 docks — one of them a floating ship repair facility.

Work is also in progress on deepening and widening navigational channels leading to the Gulf to facilitate the anchoring of heavy loading ships.

Earlier, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammed Tamimzani said here that Iraqi teams had reached a depth of more than eight metres but needed to dig another three metres or more to make the channel's tankers worthy.

He added that the country had eight giant excavators working night and day to deepen the channels linking the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway to the Gulf, stressing that "our workers have dug out 2.40 million cu. metres of the beds ... I expect them to complete their plan to dig 42 million cu. metres by the beginning of next year."

The channels — Khor Abdallah and Khor Al Zubair — link the southern Iraqi ports of Umm Qasr and Al Zubair with the Gulf.

Cost of living rises 33.4pc

Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 8, (AP): The cost of living rose 33.4 per cent in April, the economy ministry announced on Friday night in its regular monthly inflation report.

The increase was the highest since March 1976, when the cost of living rose by 38 per cent and the civilian government headed by former President Isabel Peron was overthrown by a military coup.

The April increase boosted inflation for the last 12 months to 460.6 per cent. The inflation rate for the first four months of 1989 was 86.2 per cent.

The April figure compared with an increase of 17 per cent recorded in March, 9.6 per cent in February and 8.9 per cent in January.

The government of President Raul Alfonsin last Monday announced a package of austerity measures, including a 45-day price freeze for most goods and services, a 20 per cent increase in public utility rates and a 25 per cent boost in gasoline prices in a new effort to slow inflation.

Honesty tests increasingly used to identify undesirable workers

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): The interview went well, but before Alfonso Morris got his clerk's job at a Dallas convenience store, he had to spend an hour taking a test aimed at determining whether he's a liar, thief or substance abuser.

It wasn't the first time. In the past two years, Morris, 26, had been asked by three prospective employers to submit to a written grilling about whether he'd used drugs or stolen any money or merchandise.

His experience reflects a nation-wide quest to create a drug-free, theft-free workplace, which has increased employer use of honesty and integrity tests designed to identify potential problem workers.

"They told me they give the survey to everyone before they hire them, basically to screen you," Morris said of the Stop 'n Go chain, which hired him in March. "I didn't think too much about it — I know I'm a good person

and should screen well."

But critics complain the tests amount to a written version of a lie-detector or polygraph exam, violate privacy, aren't scientific and encourage lazy hiring practices. Some contend the tests can be designed to detect political beliefs or union sympathies.

Honest

Others fear honest applicants mistakenly will be denied jobs, although test creators warn against using their questions as the sole determinant of employment because the tests aren't foolproof.

Government and private estimates suggest that substance abuse — drugs or alcohol — cost about \$77 billion a year in absenteeism, decreased productivity, lower quality of work and increased costs of benefits, while employee theft accounts for estimated losses of \$40 billion a year.

Honesty tests range in cost from \$6 to 15 each, including an evaluation of the

results. For identifying drug abusers, they are becoming an attractive alternative to urine tests, which can cost up to \$50 each, are often considered unreliable and face growing legal challenges.

A law that took effect in December barring most private employers from administering polygraph tests also gave written honesty tests a boost.

The first honesty or integrity tests were developed in the 1960s by a company now called Reid Psychological Systems, but their use has multiplied in the past few years. In 1986, an estimated 2.3 million honesty tests were administered; the number is expected to jump to 5.5 million by next year.

Drugs

The tests are surprisingly straightforward. They might ask whether the applicant has ever stolen anything from an employer, or how many times in the past month the applicant has used drugs.

William Rognas, a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchisee with five stores in Illinois, for the past two years has required applicants to take an honesty test. Results are startling.

Rognas said his food costs have dropped about four per cent because employees aren't stealing, and labour costs are down the same amount as efficiency improved.

"We hired one guy without the test and asked him to take it later. He failed, and we ended up firing him because he was stealing. It works," Rognas said.

The nation-wide crusade against drugs is considered a major catalyst pushing employers into the nebulous frontier of employee privacy.

"A lot of this stuff would not be possible were it not for ... the drug scare that exists," said Loren Siegel, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. "People are willing to sacrifice some very fundamental rights" of privacy.

With the federal government concluding the drug problem's awesome magnitude, some experts say a "policing function" has been shifted to business. Siegel said employee testing represents "the privatisation of law enforcement."

Tests

Who would admit to drug abuse or theft? Gregory Louis-Nant whose company develops and markets honesty tests, said he's continually surprised at how forthcoming applicants are about past transgressions.

Of 10,723 people applying for work at a national convenience store chain who took his test last year, 777 admitted having shoplifted a total of \$26,190 in merchandise. 902 said they think about shoplifting, and 290 admitted having stolen \$67,579 in merchandise.

Of 10,440 people tested for the same company, 1,142 admitted to overdrinking, 739 said they used cocaine and 37

said they sold amphetamines.

Questions are designed to prevent a person who used marijuana once five years ago from being lumped into the same "risk" category as one who sold cocaine last week, Louis-Nant said.

Experts say some people confess outright because it describes behaviour that has become normal for them. Others are likely to be tripped up by questions that probe attitudes toward stealing and taking drugs.

Employees have no recourse but to submit to testing, even though experts say court challenges to the tests are inevitable.

"If you don't take it, they won't hire you, and there's nothing you can do about it. That's the bottom line," Siegel said.

The vast majority of people don't object. Reid psychological statistics showed 92 per cent of test takers accepted the test while only three per cent resented it and the rest had no opinion.

New hardline stance

Taiwan bank cracks down on easy money

Taiwan braces for US trade retaliation

TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 8, (UPI): Taiwan's commercial banks recently engaged in a game of chicken with the Central Bank of China and lost. Now they are paying the consequences in the form of higher interest rates and tightened loan practices.

But the transition to doing business under a central bank determined to rein in credit and ease inflationary pressure will not be easy for either Taiwan's banks or the customers they serve.

The three provincial government-run banks, which claim a 30 per cent market share among commercial banks, finally buckled under Central Bank pressure in late April and raised interest rates on deposits and loans for the first time since the Central Bank raised reserve requirements on April 1 as part of its anti-inflation campaign.

The Hua Nan, Chang Hwa and first commercial banks hiked their prime rates from eight per cent to nine per cent annually and deposit rates from 0.25 per cent to 1.05 per cent, pushing them as high as 7.60 per cent for three-year time deposits.

The rate increases came on a day the banks had to square their previous 10 days required reserves with the Central Bank. Banks here must balance their daily required reserves with the Central Bank every 10th working day.

And real estate markets, two other inflation culprits, according to the bank.

Trade consultations in Taipei last week ended with US officials still grumbling about high tariffs on US agricultural products, barriers to US financial institutions and lack of copyright protection for Hollywood movies.

Taipei's plan to cut its surplus with Washington by 10 per cent each year over the next four years received only a guarded welcome.

Plan

"The plan is not as ambitious as it could be," a US spokesman said.

Taiwan was among 34 countries named by Washington for allegedly blocking US goods and services and US officials must decide by May 30 whether to include it on a final "blacklist" for possible retaliation.

And real estate markets, two other inflation culprits, according to the bank.

problem. But because they cannot depend on deposits for cash, they must borrow through the interbank system at rates as high as 10.5 per cent, according to one foreign bank president.

"The Central Bank measures are effective, but I don't like them. Liquidity is very tight, and it's very hard to service customers," he said.

Moves

But those who are likely to suffer the most from the Central Bank's credit-tightening moves are medium and small businesses.

According to a survey by the Economic Ministry's medium and small business administration, one-third of smaller enterprises have experienced financing difficulties, when banks either refused to accept their loan applications or reduced the promised amount.

"Smaller firms just don't have the bargaining power the large enterprises do. And higher interest rates will also have a large impact on them," the foreign bank president said.

Jasoun Huang, secretary-general of the National Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, said, "The Central Bank measures will inevitably affect smaller businesses."

Domestic banks whose reserve requirements are larger due to their high level of deposits, also have been unable to liquidate, as 62 per cent of their capital is in loans and much of the remainder is in certificates of deposits and treasury bonds issued by the Central Bank.

Squeezing the money supply, which is growing at an annualized rate of 27 per cent, will also help rein in rampant speculation on the local stock

market.

Because George Bush's lips are tied shut," the aide said. "On a difficulty scale of one to 10, I'd say it's an eight."

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-ind., chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, insisted in an interview yesterday with NBC's "Meet the Press" that Congress and the executive branch must reach a solid consensus on solving the deficit problem.

"We've got to stop playing these games," Hamilton said. "I think it is possible to put a package together of spending cuts and some tax increases — modest tax increases — and let us go for a package deal."

Here is the dollar dilemma the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee face:

The 1.16 trillion fiscal 1990 budget pact reached by Bush and congressional leaders last month and adopted by both the House and Senate last week calls for raising 14.2 billion in the fiscal

year starting Oct. 1. Of that 5.3 billion must be in taxes.

Bush agreed to the 5.3 billion tax portion of the plan because he wants the money to be raised by slashing the capital gains tax rate from 28 per cent to 15 per cent. He said it would spur investment, stimulate the economy and add nearly five billion next year and 16 billion over five years to the Treasury.

But key congressional Democrats and some Republicans disagree. They admit it would raise money the first year but claim it will cost billions later on, losing 10 billion in the fifth year alone. Chances for passage look bleak.

The rest of the 14.2 billion revenue package includes raising 5.7 billion from the sale of federal assets, such as the national petroleum reserve and several loan portfolios. 2.7 billion in user fees for federal services, such as inspections or Coast Guard rescue operations, and 0.5 billion in IRS enforcement.

President Raul Alfonsin of the radical Civil Union is barred by law from running for another

Jobless rate in China to jump

BEIJING, May 8, (AP): China's unemployment rate will nearly double this year as more job seekers scramble for a reduced number of jobs, an official daily newspaper said today.

The official unemployment rate will rise from 2 per cent last year to about 3.5 per cent in 1989, the China Daily said, quoting Xi Zhongxun of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economy.

Xi said there will be 10 million people looking for work this year, but only 5 million jobs guaranteed by the state. Most new job seekers are school graduates, demobilised servicemen, farmers looking for factory work and workers who have been laid off.

Jobs are particularly hard to find this year because the government, in an austerity programme to combat inflation and too-rapid economic growth, has cancelled or suspended thousands of construction projects and cut off credit for new investment.

Authority

Factory managers also have been given greater authority to hire and fire their own workers, and have been encouraged to pare work staffs to make their operations more efficient.

It has been estimated that China has 20 million to 30 million surplus workers out of a total urban work force of 135 million. The surplus workers are those who could be dismissed without affecting the output of their factory or office.

Chinese workers are still rarely fired, and get paid regardless of whether there is any work for them to do.

Xi said it will take time for Chinese workers to adapt themselves to the phenomenon of unemployment.

The actual number of unemployed people is thought to be far higher than government estimates because the official figures do not include non-urban labourers who have left the farm in search of jobs.

Reforms

Millions of people have given up farming to find work in rural enterprises during the past decade of economic reforms, while millions more have flocked into the cities to take jobs in the booming construction and service industries.

However, since the austerity programme was put into effect last fall, construction jobs have dried up and many rural industries have gone bankrupt because of lack of credit and materials.

Unemployed people from the countryside have become a major problem for urban authorities, and Xi said restrictions will be imposed on the hiring of farmers and the transfer of their names into urban registration books.

Delegates at the first day of the conference on Thursday attacked the government's economic policies, saying they had failed to fill empty shop shelves or curb soaring inflation — widely expected to reach 100 per cent this year.

The conference plans to launch the party's programme for parliamentary elections in June in which the opposition is competing for the first time since 1947.



Three miners on strike at Rudna copper mine in southwest Poland under a banner declaring 'Strike'. Strikers say 20,000 miners are on strike in four copper mines in the region. (Reuter wirephoto)

Strike at copper mines continues

'Talks are at an impasse'

WARSAW, May 8, (Reuter): Up to 20,000 strikers occupied four Polish copper mines for a third consecutive night to demand the communist government implement pay agreements with the Solidarnosc free trade union.

They say the strike has halted almost all copper extraction in Poland, one of the world's biggest producers.

The strikers said late yesterday that Industry Minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek had rejected a request to talk to them and negotiations with mine officials were deadlocked.

Strikers include members of the OpZZ and Solidarnosc but the union's leaders appear unwilling to back the stoppages.

Calm

EVENTS

INDIA AND VIDEO ROUNDUP

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

"Why did it happen? How did it happen? Only three months ago I was a different person. Why?" asks Aamir, the protagonist of Raakhi. His eyes wear a vacant, empty look. There is pain in them, an unbearable pain of losing youth, innocence and youth. Imprisoned, he seeks freedom. But it was freedom that imprisoned him. Crime has become so commonplace that few take notice of such instances as gang rape, mugging, robbery and smuggling. Such instances are "news" statistics and things that happen to others. The attitude of many is that "they are terrible but better forgotten."

Etched

Aamir doesn't forget; he can't. The memory is etched on his mind; a terrible feeling of guilt, of incompetence and cowardice. He must hit back, not only for Neeta (Supriya Pathak) — the victim of gang rape — but for himself.

Writer-director Aditya Bhattacharya's Raakhi (Ashes), ignoring victim Neeta's anguish, concentrates on Aamir's trauma, his guilt and his retribution.

Aamir's reticence and cul-

pability are the springboard for revenge, which is not new to Hindi movies. Neither is rape. Bhattacharya's approach to the problem differs. Though the writer's sympathy lie with the victim's lover, Aamir, Bhattacharya focuses on simmering trouble, of decaying society and its impact on the young.

The protagonist hits back, not in a moment of weakness, but with deliberate knowledge. He must destroy; he must avenge; this is his nirvana. He reaches a point of no return, blaming himself for that fatal night when Neeta (Supriya Pathak) is gang-raped as Aamir (Aamir Khan) watches helplessly. Inspector Kapoor, who is present at the scene of crime, turns a blind eye. Aamir writhes in pain as Neeta cries for help.

Aamir has fallen from grace and feels he has sinned; he must seek atonement; his pent up fury erupts like a volcano as the 21-year-old Aamir goes on a self-destructive spree.

Entangled

Aamir's agony is palpable. We sympathise with the loss of his innocence as he gets entangled in a web of intrigue, deceit and hopelessness. His pathetic plight evokes pity. We want him to turn back; he can't.

Raakhi looks at how people use people to realise their callous aims; the means to the end are irrelevant.

Raakhi is a movie that leaves a lasting impression. It is a must watch.



Scenes from Jwalamukhikali.

WHAT'S ON

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Saudi House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladeshi Art Show
MAY 12-27: Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

MUSIC

Piano Recital
MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zoll will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

Get and Gaze
MAY 19: A musical programme "Bhoolay Bisray Get Ghazals" is to take place at Sharq auditorium. They are also on the lookout for singers to participate in this programme. Those interested may contact: Anwar H. Abdulla — 3989111 ext. 6811; 8 am - 3 pm.

SOCIAL

May Queen
MAY 11: Kuwait Goans will hold a May Queen function at Messilah Beach Hotel with Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. The cream of the evening will be provided by Alexander Rosario, the singing sensation from Goa. For details contact 2413348/4881387.

India Day
MAY 11-12: Various groups and organisations of Indians living in Kuwait have joined to project cultural evenings and entertainments apart from

the springboard for revenge, which is not new to Hindi movies. Neither is rape. Bhattacharya's approach to the problem differs. Though the writer's sympathy lie with the victim's lover, Aamir, Bhattacharya focuses on simmering trouble, of decaying society and its impact on the young.

Herein lies the strength of Raakhi.

Bhattacharya's deft handling and some fine camerawork give an aura of sadness to Aamir's quest for justice. That he metes it out himself is another matter but in the process, Bhattacharya speaks volumes about amoral corruption that has eroded the fabric of society.

Inspector Kapoor is the symbol of the decaying law, a man who prizes his job more than his conscience and aids and abets crime. Pankaj Kapoor, a fine actor who made his debut on Indian TV, plays Kapoor with such conviction that you almost feel sorry for him and for others like him. He is an identifiable character, whose role has been defined with meticulous care. Kapoor is Aamir's catalyst. "We need each other," he tells Aamir.

In a moment of weakness, Aamir had given up his thirst for blood; he had found a hideaway. Kapoor, thirsting for revenge, takes a back seat as he prepares Aamir to get back at the people who destroyed them both.

Raakhi looks at how people use people to realise their callous aims; the means to the end are irrelevant.

Raakhi is a movie that leaves a lasting impression. It is a must watch.

Some sequences in the movie leave indelible marks on the mind like when Aamir returns after the first kill and the later transformation when he begins to enjoy the taste of blood. Amir Khan, whose first film Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak catapulted him to fame, plays the youth in disarray with a subdued pathos and controlled passion, conveying anguish and despair.

Dramatic
Pankaj Kapoor excels as Inspector Kapoor, a rebel without a cause who is caught up in circumstances beyond his control. He breaks out from the constraints in one of the finest dramatic sequences in Raakhi.

Raakhi is certainly not escapist fare; it has no songs or dances and none of the spicy ingredients that make up a normal commercial film. Some viewers may not like to confront the hard hitting truths it portrays. But if you did decide to see it, it is time well-spent. At least, it makes you reflect on the society you live in. After all, everything must turn to dust, but should it the way it is doing now? By "wielding."

The above film is by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya; Tel: 471-2900; and at Falcon Video, Abbasiya.

One-act play competition at Indian Arts Circle

THE Indian Arts Circle (IAC) one-act play competition opened on Thursday with the presentation of three Malayalam plays.

Kala presented "Jwalamukhikali", which deals with the overthrow of a ruler in a mythical kingdom. The play was directed by M.J. Isaac.

Madhu and friends staged "Thazhvarayude Thengal." Directed by N.V. Madhavan, it is the story of a doctor who wants to find a cure for rabies.

No matter what one does to suppress truth, it prevails in the end, according to the theme of

Nehru Centenary and Baisakhi Utsav

The Bharatiya Kala Sangam, a newly formed group of Punjabi Hindus, recently held a cultural show at the Labour Union Hall to mark the Nehru Centenary. They also celebrated the Baisakhi Utsav.

Glimpses of folk culture from the Punjab were presented by members of the club, including dances. A fancy dress competition was also held; a one-act play was presented. Poetry was recited by Kidar Nath Kedar.

Indian counsellor P.S. Mukhija was the chief guest. The chairman of the Kala Sangam, S. K. Wadhawan, welcomed the guests. Wadhawan said their "sole objective was to develop cultural awareness among the community."



A scene from the Punjabi play (above) and (left) Simarati and Anjali Varma play bride and bridegroom for the fancy dress competition.

Goan singer to perform in Kuwait

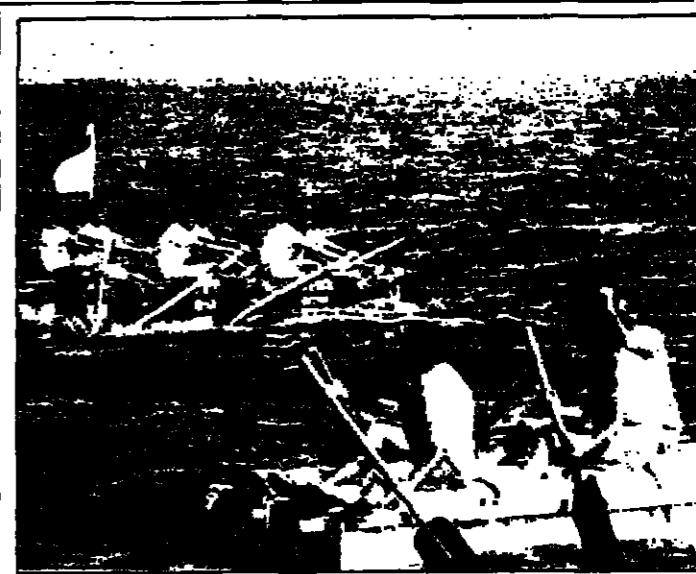
GOA's most versatile singer Alexandre Rosario will perform in Kuwait this week.

He sings in English, Hindi, Portuguese, Konkani, Spanish and French.

Alexandre began his career in the 1960s while he was still at school with Beat Four. He performed with such popular singers like Remo and drummer Steve Sequeira. Soon, he joined Beethoven with the Whiz Kid Tony Nony. Later, he became a member of a leading band known as The Gay Cabaleros with Emiliano and Billy Boy.

In the late 1970s, he went solo, performing in India and abroad, and is best known for his resonant voice.

Alexandre's Kuwait trip is by courtesy of Kuwait Goans, who are also holding the May Queen contest on May 11. The May Queen will win an Air-India Kuwait-Goa-Kuwait ticket and two days hotel accommodation. She will also win several other prizes.



Kuwait third annual raft race

Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah, the governor of Kuwait City, Messilah Beach Hotel is in the process of organising the Kuwait Third Annual Raft Race which will be held on Friday May 26, 1989 starting 9:00 am. This year, the raft race is sponsored by the Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Co. (KDD) and promoted by Winstor. Rumour has it that there will be an entry from Dubai in this year's event, turning it into an international event. You and your family are invited for a day of fun & entertainment. There will be lots of stalls, magician, live band, lots of food and attractive prizes on the entry tickets. Don't forget — Friday May 26, 1989.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

Radio PROGRAMMES

BBC World SERVICES

0000 Newsdesk
30 Megamix
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 Short Story
45 Europe's World
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Network UK
30 Sports International
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 John Peel
0400 Newsdesk
30 My Early Years
45 New Ideas
55 Book Choice
0500 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News (ext 2nd and 30th)
40 Words of Faith
45 The World Today
0600 Newsdesk
30 Voices (ext 2nd and 9th Ackers Away)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Europe's World
45 Network UK
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 Tech Talk
30 Bring Your Own Popcorn
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 The Baroque Concerto (ext 2nd and 1 Chopin Collection)
1000 News Summary followed by Discovery
30 Sports International
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Geography
25 Book Choice
30 Megamix
1200 Newsdesk
15 Multitrack 1: Top 20
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
30 Globetrotter's Guide to Popular Music (ext 2nd and 9th Sing Gospel)

1400 News Summary
1200 The World via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Close-down

1.00 News Summary

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran

4.15 The World via Satellite

4.45 Sherlock Holmes: Cartoon serial

5.15 Tum Tac and Children: Cartoon Serial

5.30 Nahno Asdiqq ad

5.45 Qanadeel Shabaya: historical serial

6.35 Varieties

7.25 You and Your Health

7.45 Varieties

8.00 Cultural Film

8.30 Good Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: Arabic serial (Part 2), starring Yahya Al Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hasan Yusuf, and Mamdouh

10.45 Min Al Alif Illa Al Ya': variety programme, presented by Tariq Habib, guest Mustafa Mahmood

11.45 News Summary

12.00 The Pink Panther: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Captain Power. Eps. 5. Power, Pilot and Scout try to unravel the mystery surrounding the child, who seems to leave sickness wherever he goes ...

7.00 Brazil: "The Price of Progress." For the first time after 21 years of military rule a civilian president is elected in Brazil. A look at progress in Brazil and the price of such progress?

8.00 News in English

8.30 The Fourth Arm. The team is formed and training starts for overcoming any obstacle that they may encounter them while carrying out mission...

9.30 Mutual of Omaha.



A scene from 'Captain Power' on KTV 2 at 6.30 pm today.

Marsh Spring." A look at immigrant birds in the marshes of Utah during spring season.

6.30 Captain Power. Eps. 5. Power, Pilot and Scout

try to unravel the mystery surrounding the child, who seems to leave sickness wherever he goes ...

7.00 Brazil: "The Price of Progress." For the first time after 21 years of military rule a civilian president is elected in Brazil. A look at progress in Brazil and the price of such progress?

8.00 News in English

8.30 The Fourth Arm. The team is formed and training starts for overcoming any obstacle that they may encounter them while carrying out mission...

9.30 Mutual of Omaha.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran

6.00 News in English

6.30 The Pink Panther: A cartoon series for children

6.45 Captain Power. Eps. 5. Power, Pilot and Scout

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Lifting the veil on Harrod's owner Al Fayed

The last Pharaoh?

By Jean Rook

MOHAMMED Al Fayed claims to be the last Pharaoh. On papyrus, at any rate, he owns Harrods and the Ritz hotel in Paris. And that's crisp £750 million gone before breakfast.

Al Fayed, who makes money fly thicker and faster than desert sand, assures his jealous rivals that his multi-billions are piled in pyramids and that — compared with his treasure — Tutankhamen looks bankrupt.

His rivals snipe back that the Egyptian tycoon asked for living proof of his wealth, clung up like a mummy and that, some day, someone will unwrap his bandages and expose something nasty.

Certainly, where his cash flow springs from nobody knows. Trying to prise the information out of Al Fayed is like having a conversation with the Sphinx.

When I chipped away at this mythically wealthy man, who seems to be making an overnight take-over bid for Europe, all I could hack from the stony silence was: "When I buy something, I pay cash for it — and nobody has the right to ask me how I made it."

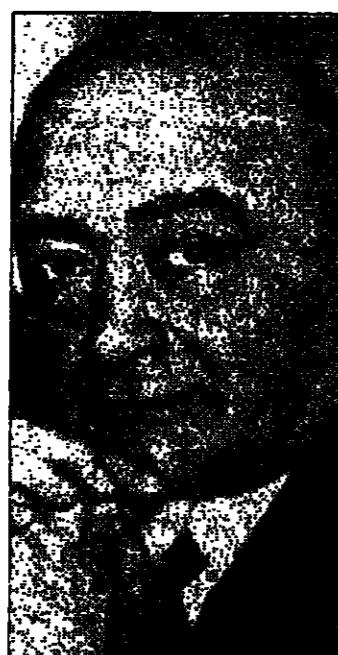
"How would you feel if I asked you where you got the money to buy a £100,000 diamond from Harrods?"

Flattered. The chaff was as clumsy as the Piramid of Cheops until he finally opened up with a roaring laugh. "I understand all the curiosity, of course I do. Who is this Egyptian who bought Harrods?"

More intriguing than how Al Fayed bought Harrods is *why*. And just how does it feel to sit on top of the Top People's store, outlined in its 11,000 light bulbs, and rejoice that all 26 acres of the world's swankiest shop are yours?

"To me, Harrods is history, a place of romance and fantasy, a place of great theatre — I can walk round for three hours a day just thinking of the glamorous people who've shopped here, the generations who've been through it, the stories it could tell."

"Only the other day we unearthed a blocked-up 1930 staircase — think who could have



Egyptian tycoon Mohammed Al Fayed, the most glamorous shopowner in the world.

"When I was young man, 30 years ago I lived for a time in that beautiful square, and the Ritz became my dream, something that stuck with me for the rest of my life."

"It's the most glamorous hotel in the world, so when it came on the market, I thought how wonderful to carry out my young dream of restoring it to its old splendour, but a hundred times better."

I asked the last of the biggest spenders what's next on his shopping list. Buckingham Palace? The Taj Mahal?

"Nothing at the moment — at my age it's time I settled down with my wife and children to enjoy what I've got," he beamed.

In only 55 years, you wonder how he's packed in two wives, and five children, from two to 31, along with everything else. Is it true that like royalty, his constantly guarded family never travels in one plane?

"No, we go everywhere together, and if the plane goes, we'll all go together, too," said the man of destiny who believes it's all written in the desert stars.

It's all destiny, plus the hard work to make it come true. A head for business is as much God's gift as a talent for painting, music, or becoming a star like Rod Stewart, just because he refused to be destined to be a grave digger.

"You judge things, you discuss them with God, and then you work to get where you are," said the modern-day Midas.

Once there most fabulous wealthy men tend not to throw it about. Al Fayed, who bought a Scottish castle over lunch, burls it around, tossing what's left to good causes.

"You can't take it with you," said the only Pharaoh who won't attempt it. "The only real wealth is health and enjoying yourself. I'm not Tutankhamen. Before I go I shall give it all away. I implicitly believe in re-incarnation — the good you do and the good you leave behind in this life is what counts for you in the next."

"The Ritz was in a terrible state. It has taken me seven years and £100 million to put it right," Al Fayed said as casually as other men mention they've repaired the spare room.

"If I wake up tomorrow on a bench in Hyde Park with a piece of bread, I'd be happy enough. Because I know I could go out and make it all again."

walked down it — it's beautiful, I shall restore it just as it is.

"For me the greatest thrill is to buy a piece of history and bring it back to life."

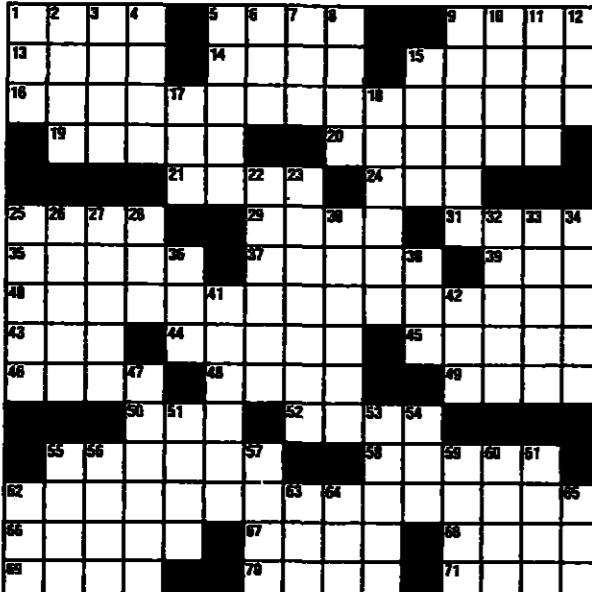
But at a price which would pauperise lesser men. On Harrods alone he has spent £9 million on marble, £6.5 million on carpets, £23,000 for each hand-crafted chandelier in the world-famous Food Hall and £102.7 million burned up on electrical and structural improvements which a shopper's eye won't even notice.

And when Al Fayed bought it in 1983, Harrods was in fair nick. Not so the Ritz hotel, in Paris' Place Vendome, which was crumbling into a gilded ghost town, haunted by greats like Ernest Hemingway, who permanently propped up the bar now named after him, and echoing with Rudolph Valentino's tango steps on the worn-out ballroom floor.

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"If I wake up tomorrow on a bench in Hyde Park with a piece of bread, I'd be happy enough. Because I know I could go out and make it all again."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦Q94 ♠AKQJ4 ♦J5 ♠A73

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A.—With this much strength opposite a one-over-one response, you would have jumped to two no trump to describe a balanced hand too strong for a one no trump opening bid. Since partner made a two-over-one response, jump to three no trump to show the same type of hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKJ65 ♠AJ ♦J76 ♠742

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—For his jump shift, partner can hardly have less than A-K and A-Q in his two suits. Therefore, it's simply a matter of whether partner has the ace of clubs as well. Bid four no trump to find out. (If your partner habitually jump shifts with bad suits, you have our sympathy.)

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦83 ♠KQJ7 ♠AQ62 ♠AJ2

The bidding has proceeded:

East South West North

1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You have a pretty good hand, but there is no need to get carried away. Bear in mind that you have forced partner to bid, and he might have done so on a barbrough. The most you can do is invite game by raising to three hearts—if partner has a smattering of points, he will go on to game.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦KJ ♠Q10 ♦Q9873 ♠J1082

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

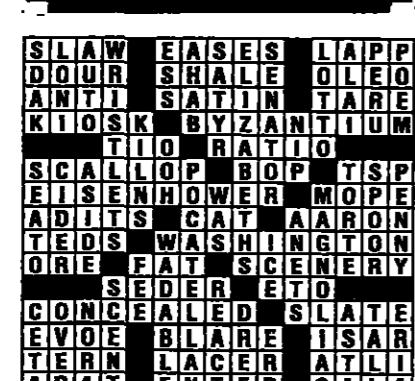
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner is showing a 5-4-2-2 distribution and some 16-18 points. Not only are you maximum for your first response, but your honors in

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



What action do you take?

A.—Partner is showing a 5-4-2-2

distribution and some 16-18 points.

Not only are you maximum for your first response, but your honors in

Movie mogul Steven Spielberg faces a massive payoff

The £58 million extravaganza divorce

By John Hiscock

EVEN in Hollywood, where superlatives are a part of everyday conversation, it is a colossal extravaganza, a multi-million dollar megadivorce starring the town's wealthiest film maker and an Oscar-nominated actress.

For Steven Spielberg, it is a production he would rather not have his name attached to. Under the terms of his divorce settlement he is reported to be paying his wife, Amy Irving, £58 million. It is a settlement that far exceeds the previous highest divorce payments in Hollywood, the £20 million paid by singer Wayne Newton, and talk show host Johnny Carson's much publicised settlement of £18 million.

Yet, under California's divorce law, which divides property equally between husband and wife, it is not excessive, amounting to considerably less than the £68 million the reclusive director has already earned from the

film *E.T.*, just one of the string of huge box-office successes he has put his Midas touch upon.

Spielberg, at 41 acknowledged to be the world's most successful film maker, says of himself: "I'm a mini-mogul. I run a mini-studio and we make mini-movies and we hope to make maxi-profits."

That has certainly been true of almost everything he has touched so far. He has directed — and had a share of the profits in — four of the top 10 most successful films in cinema history, *E.T.*, *Jaws*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. His films have so far brought in an estimated £900 million, and the money is still rolling in.

E.T., the top-grossing film of all time, earned Spielberg £23 million from his share of the profits and from the licensing of *E.T.* related products and toys. He raked in another £45 million from video-cassette sales by negotiating an

unprecedented £3 royalty from each of the £11.75 cassettes sold. The *E.T.* video went on to sell 15 million copies — more than twice the seven million sold of Walt Disney's *Cinderella*, the previous most popular film on video-cassette.

Despite his wealth, Spielberg has an unostentatious lifestyle by Hollywood standards. Until their separation he, Amy Irving and their four-year-old son, Max, lived in Spielberg's hilltop home in the Bel-Air area of Los Angeles. Part stage set and part suburban palace, it features wooden beams, skylights, stained glass, Navajo weavings and baskets, Norman Rockwell pictures and pink boulders at the corners of white stucco walls.

The original Rosebud sledges from *Citizen Kane*, which he bought at an auction for \$30,000, hang in pride of place above the fireplace. He also has an apartment in New York's Trump Tower,

Splitting up: Steven Spielberg and Amy Irving

Hitchcock's suite, which he turned down as "sacrilegious," so they built him one. As Sidney Shneir, president of MCA, parent company of Universal, says: "There are very few things Steven could ask of us that he would not get. There is no one we are more anxious to please."

The studio originally offered him the late Alfred

what they were told by a policeman. Nowadays they are more likely to question him and argue with him," Smith said.

The frustrations are echoed in the Wolf Ollins report.

"Police ... need to feel wanted, admired, cared for, but they are, as they see it, sometimes misunderstood, vilified, even, from time to time, physically and verbally abused," it said.

Between 1986 and 1987 the number of policemen injured on duty throughout Britain rose a third to 17,000. Yet the British police remain the only major national force not routinely armed.

Metropolitan police armoured cars, equipped with 1,600 firearms, are smaller than they were in 1922, despite the greater use of guns by criminals. Only the diplomatic protection unit and bodyguards for politicians and royalty regularly carry arms.

In New York, by contrast, all 27,000 officers carry handguns and police hold hundreds of rifles in reserve.

Violence has spread from the major cities to once-peaceful rural areas where weekend clashes between police and drunken youths have become more common.

Smith feels the Met has changed more in the last 10 years than at any time since it was founded in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel. The nickname "bobby" is based on the diminutive of Robert.

"So far, we've developed by a process of chance reactions to the growing complexity of crime. What we now need is a clear definition of our role," he said.

One product of that chance process was a special unit set up to deal with Britain's biggest-ever robbery of \$47 million worth of gold and diamonds, from the Brinks Mat Security Service five years ago.

'Courtesy is in, abrasiveness is out'

London 'bobby' sprucing up image

By Ralph Boulton

THE London 'bobby' is polishing up his tarnished image as he struggles to keep a pace ahead of the capital's flourishing criminal underworld.

Romantics may still reveal in the image of blue-caped heroes chasing villains through the swirling fogs of Victorian London. But a recent report showed the reality of the 27,000-strong metropolitan police is less glamorous.

The modern policeman, it says, languishes in shabby premises. Morale is low, time is wasted in petty internal rivalries and, worse still, some officers are aggressive and "too free with their language" in dealing with the public.

The 'Met' is the largest of 44 regional police forces. Its problems are shared by others throughout Britain.

A poll by the Mori organisation shows a dramatic fall in police popularity in Britain. Only 38 per cent of people were satisfied with the force in 1989, compared with 75 per cent in 1981.

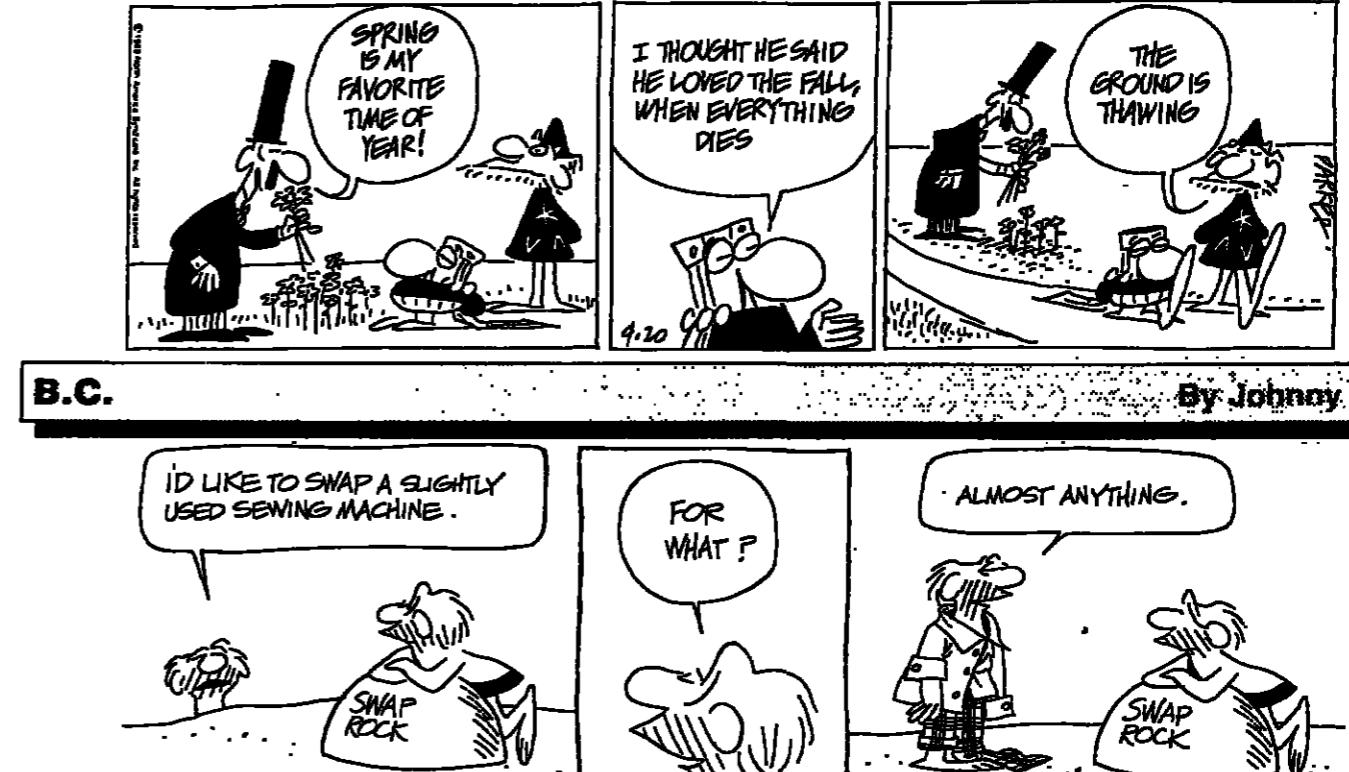
Now the 'Met' has launched a campaign to spruce up its image and right the wrongs brought out in the report it commissioned last year from the Wolf Ollins corporate "image-makers".

"Courtesy is in. Abrasiveness is out," Met commissioner Sir Peter Imbert said. Stations would be spruced up and organisation improved to cope with the increasing sophistication of crime.

Assistant commissioner John Smith said in an interview that changing public attitudes to the police had made life more difficult for the man on the beat.

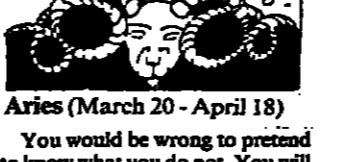
"People are more educated now. There was a time when they did

THE WIZARD OF ID



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)



What would you do?

A.—Stayman, searching for a possible 4-4 fit. Since his bid of three no trump denies four spades, he must hold four cards in hearts. Correct to four hearts.

What action do you take?

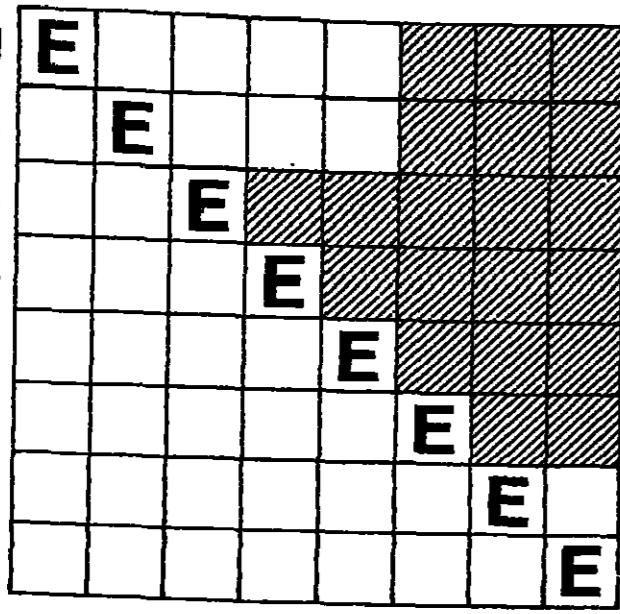
A.—Partner's two-club bid was Stayman, searching for a possible 4-4 fit. Since his bid of three no trump denies four spades, he must hold four cards in hearts. Correct to four hearts.

What do you bid now?

JUNIOR TIMES

How many of these E number-words can you find?
Here are the clues.

- 1 sevens are 56
- 2 The wonders of the world
- 3 One more than zero!
- 4 Three threes
- 5 Three of this give number 4
- 6 A baker's dozen less one
- 7 Number of cards in a suit
- 8 Number of cards in a pack - less one



Congratulations



Best wishes to Shifa M. Ali, recently home from hospital and recuperating from illness. Get well soon from family and friends.

NOBILITY

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| BARON | LADY |
| BIRTH | LINIE |
| BLOOD | LIST |
| BLUE BOOK | LORD |
| COURT | MARQUIS |
| DAME | NOBLE |
| DUKE | ORDER |
| EARL | QUEEN |
| FAME | ROOD |
| KINGS | ROYAL |
| TOFF | ROYAL |
| KNIGHT | VISCOUNT |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | K | I | N | G | S | T | T | I | B |
| V | N | E | M | A | D | R | R | L | A |
| L | I | S | T | N | E | U | Q | R | |
| A | G | S | L | R | A | E | D | O | O |
| D | H | S | C | D | B | M | C | R | N |
| Y | T | D | R | O | Y | A | L | D | O |
| D | O | U | O | O | U | F | H | E | B |
| R | F | K | O | L | I | N | E | R | L |
| O | F | E | D | B | I | R | T | H | E |
| L | O | P | S | I | U | O | R | A | M |

Clue: Church official (6 letters)

Join the dots

Potty!



Firsts and lasts

The last time there were third class carriages on British trains was on the 3rd June, 1956. Since then there have been only first and second class carriages.

At the beginning of the First World War there were only 50 men in the American Air Force.

'Volcano' first came into the English language because the Roman god of fire, the god of blacksmiths too, was called 'Vulcan.'

The original 'King Kong,' the one used in the 1933 film, was only 45 cm (18 inches) tall. It is thanks to clever photography that it appears such a monster on the screen.

The film star, Doris Day, started her showbiz career as a dancer and only changed to being a singer after breaking her leg.

The first crossword puzzle to appear in Britain was in the Sunday Express on 2nd November, 1924.

The last time there was no speed limit in Britain was in 1934.

General George Patton, one of America's great military commanders, who was born on 11 November, 1855, believed that he had first served as a soldier in earlier lives. According to the general he had originally been a soldier in the Greek army commanded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC, and had even been part of a prehistoric, tribal army.

Only nine nations competed in the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1968.

Our sense of smell is the first of the five we lose as we grow older.

The film star Kirk Douglas was first called Issur Danielovitch Demsky.

The first ship sailed through the Panama Canal on 17th of November, 1913.

Young poets

Mean people

Why are people so mean?
They are never keen
about how other people
feel
for their sorrows and their
grieves

They just don't care
if others have nothing to
wear.

They do nothing but stare
leaving them alone and
bare.

They can be protected
from rain
but don't know who's in
pain

I just want everyone to
share
The blessings of God,
which is fair

Hima Yunus Chaudry

MARRIAGE

Marriage is like a cage, one sees the
birds outside desperate to get in,
And those inside equally desperate
to get out.

Marriage is a book of which the first
chapter is written in poetry and the
remaining chapters in prose.

The trouble with marriage is that while
every woman at heart is a mother,
every man at heart is a bachelor.

By all means marry, if you get a good wife,
You'll become happy
If you get a bad one, you
become a philosopher.

Men marry because they are tired,
women because they are curious,
Finally both are disappointed.

YOU AND ME

Let's live, my love, you and me
each day as it comes.
Let's learn a little more, hoping to
make things better in love and life.

And, let our cloudy thoughts be after
thoughts

Come my love, you and me, shower
goodwill everywhere and rain happiness
forever

Let us be the sunshine caressing every
one with warmth.

Let you and me be truly happy,
and real a dream or two along the way.

Let you and me make a habit of
reaching out for rainbows,

and colour lives with wonderful days

Shaeen S. Shaikh,
Dadar
Bombay

Milan cathedral took 579 years to build and seats a congregation of 40,000.

The official name for Libya is 'SPLAJ,' the Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The archer fish can hit an insect up to 122 cm away with drops of
water squirted from its mouth.

It takes five tons of rock to produce a piece of gold the size of a
trouser button.

Amazing facts

The southernmost manned lighthouse in the world is Cape
Pembroke Lighthouse in the Falkland Islands.

The official cause of death of George IV was listed as rupture of
the stomach blood vessels, alcoholic cirrhosis, gout, nephritis
and dropsy.

The bayonet is named after the French town Bayonne.

108 Letter Change

Alter one letter only in each word and so form a sensible
phrase in each example.

1. ILL TOE BEAR SOUND
2. HONEY FOX ODD ROSE
3. FATTER ADD BOTHER
4. GREEN MEATS GREET
5. FREAK THY SAD NEWT
6. CAST BUN GOT LEASH
7. WATCH AT BATCH MAN
8. LOUGH END GROG MAT
9. LET IN WITS TIE COB
10. MY BITS ANY STARES
11. RATIONAL POTTERY
12. CORNET TOE MARKER

109 Niners

Put letters in place of the crosses to form 9-letter words in
which no two letters are the same.

All the words begin with the same letter.

1. x U x L x C x T x
2. x E x U x T x R x
3. x I x L x M x C x
4. x R x N x A x L x
5. x O x C x S x E x
6. x O x E x A x L x
7. x A x G x R x U x
8. x E x L x C x T x
9. x I x L x C x T x
10. x I x E x B x R x
11. x A x E x P x R x
12. x I x C x V x R x



An eight-day-old Florida red wolf puppy is given a dose of oral antibiotic by a caretaker for a slight infection at the Tallahassee Florida Junior museum. Three pups were born bringing the number of surviving red wolves to 86 in the USA.

The elephant's trunk is an amazing organ. It is an extension of the nose and upper lip and serves the elephant as hand, arm, nose, and lips all in one!

Fawad Mustafa
Pakistani School

Class 7

Ostriches

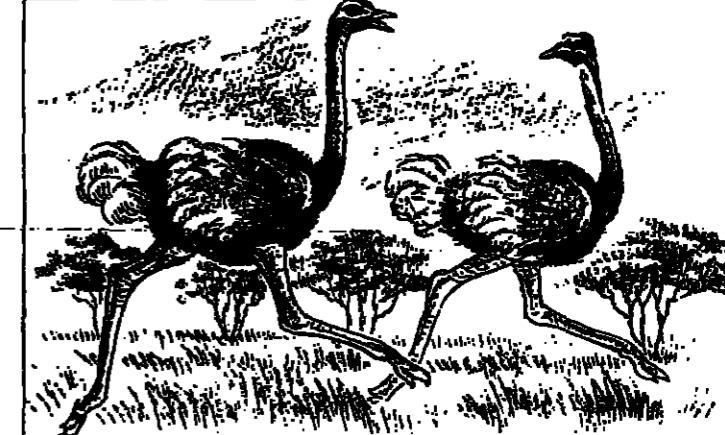
THE ostrich is the fastest running bird in the world. It can go as fast as 50 miles an hour and is able to maintain this speed for over half a mile.

The ostrich is a greedy eater. It eats plants, berries and seeds, however, to help digest the food. An ostrich will sometimes swallow large stones, bits of iron and other objects!

A full grown ostrich is usually between two and two and a half meters tall and it weighs between 70 to over 135 kilograms.

Atika Mustafa
Pakistani School

5 G.S.



Elephants

THOUSANDS and thousands of years ago, giant monsters known as "mammoths" roamed the earth. Because they could not bear the hardships, they perished one by one. Only two of those species have remained, and they are the African and Asiatic elephants.

Elephants are the largest land animals. Even though they are so huge, they are patient, gentle and intelligent.

The elephant has an enormously heavy body which may weigh up to five tonnes. Their legs are short and are shaped like strong pillars.

The two ivory tusks which protrude from the upper jaw of an elephant are really overgrown teeth. These tusks are used to dig up roots for food and also as weapons of defense.

Dear Junior readers,

I HOPE you all had a good Eid Holiday — the last holiday of the term meaning exams are well on their way.

To try to develop a study timetable: set up all your subjects and decide how long you should spend on each per evening. Think your timetable out carefully, as some subjects, which may seem easy, could take more time than expected. Avoid studying one single subject an evening, this will be both boring and tiresome.

Take five minutes rest intervals whenever you begin to feel restless. In these few minutes, do not think about your studying, listen to your favourite song, eat a plate of icecream or just relax (do not overdo these rest intervals though, this will cause more harm than good.) When you begin studying again rapidly revise that you did before your break and then begin the new section. This way you will make the information stick in your head and later revision will be fast and easy.

Good luck — I hope to see many "Congratulations for passing your exams" pictures over the next few weeks.

Manal

Ha! Ha!

'My boyfriend says I look like a dishy Italian!' said Miss Conceited.

'He's right,' said her brother.

'Sophia Loren?'

'No — spaghetti!'

'I think it's true when they say television causes violence,' said the small boy.

'What makes you think that?'

'Cos every time I switch it on my Dad clouts me.'

'Is my dinner hot?' asked the excessively late husband.

'It should be,' said his furious wife, 'it's been on the fire since seven o'clock!'

Susannah was watching her big sister covering her face with cream. 'What's that for?' she asked.

'To make me beautiful,' came the reply. Susannah watched in silence as her sister then wiped her face clean.

'Doesn't work, does it?' was the moppet's comment.

WAITER WAITER...

WHY HAVE YOU GOT YOUR THUMB ON MY STEAK?

I DON'T WANT IT TO FALL ON THE FLOOR AGAIN

HAVE YOU SMOKED TROUT?

NO, I'VE ONLY EVER SMOKED TOBACCO

WILL MY SPAGHETTI BE LONG?

ABOUT 20 CENTIMETRES SIR

I'D LIKE ASPARAGUS

WE DON'T SERVE SPARROWS, AND MY NAME'S NOT GUS!

WHAT'S THIS FLY DOING ON MY ICE CREAM?

LEARNING TO SKI, SIR

THAT WAS THE WORST THING I'VE EVER TASTED

WAIT TILL YOU GET THE NEXT COURSE

THIS SOUP TASTES LIKE DISHWATER

HOW DO YOU KNOW?



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NAME CHANGE

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I. VENKAPPA Reddy, holder of Indian passport No. B-870779 embraced Islam and changed my name to Mohammad Mustafa. (AT4-47206-2)

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W

SPORTS

Soviet gymnast takes two golds at European Championships

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 8. (AP): Valentin Mogilnyi of the Soviet Union captured the pommel horse and vault routines and added a bronze in the parallel bars for the top individual performance yesterday at the men's European Gymnastics Championships.

Igor Korobchinsky, another Soviet gymnast who took the all-around title Saturday ahead of Mogilnyi, prevailed in the opening floor exercise at the Globe

Arena.

East European gymnasts swept all but one of the 18 medals at stake in the apparatus finals. West German Andreas Aguilar was the only Western European medallist, placing third in the rings.

Juri Chechi of Italy was fourth in the rings and Johan Jonasson of Sweden, who was fourth and best of the west in the all-around, matched that finish in the high bar routine yesterday.

East Germany picked up two gold

medals, Andreas Wecker winning the high bar and Holger Behrendt taking the rings. Vitali Marinich of the Soviet Union was runnerup in both events.

Wecker was the only other three-time medallist, taking the silver medals in the parallel bars, by Kalofer Hristozov of Bulgaria, and the pommel horse.

The 24-nation championship drew a total of 18,000 fans.

Cavaliers and Hawks knocked out of playoffs

NEW YORK, May 8. (AP): The homecourt advantage didn't pan out for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Atlanta Hawks. And both teams were eliminated from the National Basketball Association playoffs yesterday.

At Richfield, Ohio, Michael Jordan drove past Craig Ehlo and hit a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer, giving the Chicago Bulls a 101-100 victory over the Cavaliers and a 3-2 triumph in their first-round series.

In Atlanta, Ricky Pierce scored 25 points and Paul Mokeski and Jay Humphries hit key baskets down the stretch as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Hawks 96-92 in the final game of their best-of-5 series.

The Bucks will open the best-of-7 second round in New York against the Knicks tomorrow night, while the Bucks began the other Eastern Conference semifinal series at Detroit on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers, trying for their third straight NBA championship, opened their Western Conference semifinal series by defeating the Seattle SuperSonics 113-103 as Magic Johnson scored 21 points. The second game will be Wednesday night, also in英格拉姆, California.

On Saturday, the Phoenix Suns crushed Golden State 130-103 in the first game of the other Western Conference semifinal, outscoring the Warriors 41-22 in the third period as Tom Chambers scored 13 of his 25 points and rookie guard Dan Majerle had 10 of his 22 in the decisive period.

The Bucks and Bucks crammed plenty of action into the final seconds. First, Ehlo gave Cleveland a 100-99 lead on a driving layup with three seconds left.

But after two timeouts, Jordan got the ball near the top of the circle, drove past Ehlo and leaped at the free-throw line. The winning shot barely touched the back of the rim as it went through for the last of Jordan's 44 points.

"Everyone had been writing us off," said Jordan, who scored 30 points in the second half. "I was very disappointed after we lost Friday night. I was fighting off tears. But I had to get rid of that attitude today."

"Larry Nance did a good job of keeping me from going where I wanted (on the inbounds pass from Brad Sellers), so I had to pull off a fake just to get the ball," Jordan said. "Once I got the ball, I penetrated a little and got set up a little. But Ehlo came over and had me covered. I had to hesitate and then I got the shot off. How it went in I don't know."

Ehlo led Cleveland with 24 points, Mark Price had 23 and Ron Harper 22.

Bucks 96, Hawks 92

Mokeski twice gave Milwaukee the lead on layups in the final 3 1/2 minutes, the last with 2:51 to play, putting the Bucks ahead to stay, 87-86.

Fred Roberts made two free throws 30 seconds later, Pierce hit an 18-footer and Humphries scored a breakaway layup, stretching the lead to 93-86.

Atlanta countered with a 3-pointer by Glenn Rivers but Humphries hit two more free throws with 53 seconds left for a 95-89 lead.

Moses Malone, who led the Hawks with 25 points and 16 rebounds, got Atlanta within three points with a 3-point field goal but Humphries hit one of two free throws with eight seconds left.

Free throws were the difference. The Bucks, who led the NBA in free throw shooting, made their first 16 and finished with 26 of 29. Atlanta made only 22 of 35.

Lakers 113, SuperSonics 102

James Worthy had 28 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who didn't go ahead for good until a jump shot by Johnson with 9:51 remaining gave them an 88-87 lead, starting a 16-4 spurt that made it 102-91 with 4:34 to go.

Bryon Scott had 18 points and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Mychal Thompson added 16 points each for Los Angeles. Derrick McKey led Seattle with 23 points and Dale Ellis had 19, but only two in the fourth quarter. Xavier McDaniel scored 15 for the Sonics, only two in the second half.

It was the Lakers' ninth straight playoff victory over the Sonics dating back to April 1980.

Somerset and Sussex tie**Essex overcome Derbyshire**

Phillip DeFreitas



Graham Rose

LONDON, May 8. (Reuters): Sussex batsman Tony Dodemaide was run out off the last ball as Somerset forced a tie in their Sunday League cricket

match at Taunton.

Having scored eight runs from the first five balls of Peter Roebuck's final over, Sussex needed two from the last delivery to snatch victory. But a sharp return by Graham Rose beat Dodemaide as he went for the second and the points were shared.

Somerset had earlier made 182

for nine in their 40 overs and Sussex reached the same score for the loss of seven wickets.

In an equally tight finish at Chelmsford, another last ball run out gave Essex a one-run win over Derbyshire.

This time three runs were needed from the final delivery.

Steve Goldsmith struck the ball firmly to the on-side but Paul Newman was run out going for the second run which would have meant a tie.

Ian Botham had another setback in his bid to win back an England place, bowled by Phillip DeFreitas without scoring as League champions Worcester-

shire were beaten by 14 runs by Lancashire.

DeFreitas also bowled Grahame Hick for four and Wor-

cestershire ended on 188 for nine in reply to Lancashire's 202 for eight.

Results

At Newport: Gloucestershire

beat Glamorgan 171 for six

innings closed. Gloucestershire

173 for seven in 39.1 overs.

Gloucester four points.

At Southampton: Hampshire

beat Kent by nine wickets. Kent

156 in 38 overs (S. Hinks 44).

Hampshire 158 for one in 35.3

overs (P. Terry 79 not out, M.

Nicholas 52). Hampshire four

points.

At Headingly: Yorkshire

beat Nottinghamshire by 60

runs. Yorkshire 201 for four

innings closed (D. Baird 65

not out, R. Blakey 61). Notting-

hamshire 141 in 36.4 overs (D.

Randall 55). Yorkshire four

points.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat

Surrey by 60 runs. Middlesex 221

for five innings closed (J. Carr 86

M. Gatting 80). Surrey 161 in

38.3 overs (J. Carr four for 21).

Middlesex four points.

At Northampton: Northamp-

tonshire beat Warwickshire by

seven wickets. Warwickshire 171

for nine innings closed. North-

amptonshire 172 for three in 38

overs (A. Lamb 80 not out, D.

Capel 40 not out). Northants

four points.

At Taunton: Somerset v Sus-

sex match tied. Somerset 182 for

nine innings closed (R. Harden

61, P. Roebuck 52). Sussex 182

for seven innings closed. Somer-

set and Sussex two points.

At Worcester: Lancashire beat

Worcestershire by 14 runs. Lan-

cashire 202 for eight innings

closed (N. Fairbrother 64). Wor-

cestershire 188 for nine innings

closed (S. O'Shaughnessy 69).

Lancashire four points.

At Chelmsford: Essex beat

Derby by one run. Essex 154 for

eight innings closed. Derbyshire

153 for eight innings closed (P.

Bowler 58). Essex four points.

Standings

English Sunday League cricket table

after the latest round of matches (table below, played, won, lost, tied, no result, points):

| | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Essex | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| Lancashire | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Middlesex | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Surrey | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Hampshire | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Northants | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Kent | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Yorkshire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Glamorgan | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Sussex | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Worcestershire | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Standings

Gao completes double

Gao performs during the finals of the springboard diving. (Reuters wirephoto)

INDIANAPOLIS, May 8. (Reuters): China's brilliant Olympic champion Gao Min captured the 3-metre springboard title yesterday to become the only individual double winner after the fifth and final day of World Cup Diving competition.

Gao's 3-metre triumph followed her victory in the 1-metre event on Saturday.

Yesterday, she took the lead on the second of five optional dives — a back, two and half in figures, somersault in tuck position — and pulled away to win with 323.46 points.

Irina Lashko of the Soviet Union finished second and American Kelly McCormick was third.

The Chinese, who dominated the team competition by winning five of the six segments, also topped the individual competition with four gold medals, two silvers and a bronze.

The United States had two golds, one silver and two bronze medals, while the Soviet Union earned three silver and two bronze medals.

The other bronze medal went to West Germany.

Fifteen-year-old Xiong Ni gave China their final gold as he led from the start to win the 10-metre event. He totalled 461.19 points to beat runner-up Vladimir Timoshkin of the Soviet Union by nearly 20 points.

American Mark Lenzi, who has been diving for just four years, took top honours in the 1-metre event.

Lenzi, who is a converted wrestler, led all the way and finished with 402.18 points. Valeri Stasenko of the Soviet Union was second followed by American Pat Evans.

Despite a world class field, no perfect 10s were awarded by the international jury panels during the meet.

The one-metre was included in the world cup for the first time as an experiment by FINA, as the international governing body for the sport decides if it should be added as an Olympic event.

Chinese diving coach Xu Yimin said he had hoped his team would do even better here. "I had expected better performances. We were not prepared as well as our candidates were before the Seoul Olympics," he said.

Anti-apartheid group threatens protests

LONDON, May 8. (Reuters): Anti-apartheid leader Sam Ramsamy threatened protest action today against countries which send players to South Africa's Rugby Union centenary celebrations in August.

Ramsamy, leader of the London-based Organisation SANROC, which led disruption of the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, said: "These celebrations are about 100 years of racist rugby."

He said SANROC would take action against countries which had given the go-ahead to players to take part in the

celebrations unless those countries reconsidered.

Scotland and Wales both said last week they would not stand in the way of players who wanted to take part in the six matches in August.

Ramsamy said: "We shall be urging the rugby authorities to change their mind and asking them to show us the same courtesy they have given South Africa by passing on our message to their players."

"We are hopeful they will reconsider. Rugby has an obligation not to jeopardise international competition for other sports."

"If they refuse, protest action will focus on all countries sending players."

"New Zealand has gone out of its way to cut links with South Africa and in fact has been quite ruthless. But we don't know what action the African countries might take, so action over the (1990) Commonwealth Games cannot be ruled out."

The International Rugby Board gave South Africa permission in April to invite players through their national unions to make up a composite International XV as part of the centenary celebrations.



Riot policemen and rampaging fans clash in Athens' Olympic stadium. (Reuters wirephoto)

Riot Greek fans fight after match

ATHENS, May 8. (Reuters): Fighting broke out among rival Greek soccer fans after a match yesterday, injuring 50 people and badly damaging Athens' main stadium, police said.

Several hundred rampaging fans tore up about 5,000 plastic seats at the Olympiakos stadium and hurled them into crowds after the match between First Division Olympiakos-Piraeus and Aek-Athens.

One young fan broke his back and another was cut badly when he was hit by a chair. Forty-six fans and four policemen were treated for injuries, police said.

Six people were arrested, including two for throwing rocks at spectators.

Riot police with shields and batons were rushed to the stadium to separate the fans after Aek clinched the First Division championship with its 1-0 win over Olympiakos.

Soccer hooliganism, a relatively new phenomenon in Greece, has marred matches over the past two seasons.

A weekend rarely goes by during the season without some violence at a First Division match.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Weapons seized

PESCARA, Italy, May 8. (AP): Police said today that they seized a variety of weapons prior to the Pescara-Lazio Major League soccer match, possibly foiling more serious incidents between rival fans.

Mudd triumphs

IRVING, Texas, May 8. (Reuters): Jodie Mudd birdied the first extra hole against Larry Nelson to win the million-dollar Byron Nelson Golf Classic at the Four Seasons Resort yesterday.

Soviet officer

BUFFALO, N.Y., May 8. (Reuters): A Soviet Army officer and ice hockey star who faces desertion charges after defecting to the United States has signed with a US team but has not yet sought political asylum.

2,000 Guineas

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Real Madrid lucky to draw

MADRID, May 8. (Reuters): Spanish soccer championship leaders Real Madrid gained a fortune: 1-1 draw in a rugged clash at Athletic Bilbao yesterday which left them five points clear of Barcelona.

Real Madrid's Brazilian striker Baltazar de Morais (right) is tackled by Sociedad's Alberto Gorri. (Reuters wirephoto)

But deflated Real were saved by a corner from midfielder Michel Gonzalez which Butragueno headed backwards to Sanchez who equalised.

Barcelona did not play because of Wednesday's European Cup Winners' Cup final against Sampdoria of Italy.

Sweden win

STOCKHOLM, May 8. (Reuters): A dramatic injury time goal by a substitute gave Sweden a precious 2-1 victory over Poland in a World Cup soccer qualifying match yesterday.

Ajax stumble

AMSTERDAM, May 8. (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam's Dutch soccer title challenge faltered when they lost 1-0 at mid-table Volendam yesterday.

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Ivan Lendl

TENNIS

Proviss upset in 1st round of Italian Open

ROME, May 8. (Reuters): Nicole Provis became the first seed to go out of the Italian Open women's tennis championships which started today, blown away by a capricious centre court wind and a disco-loving teenager.

Australian Provis, the ninth seed, was knocked out in the first round by 18-year-old Czechoslovak Petra Langrova, 6-7 6-3 6-0 in front of only a handful of spectators who turned out for the low-key first day.

Langrova, ranked 70th in the world, made the top 100 only last year but demonstrated her promise two weeks ago when she beat Soviet Natalia Zvereva, the world number eight, in straight sets in Tampa.

Strong gusts of wind on a hot, sunny afternoon at the Foro Italico, tormented Provis, 19, who wailed in frustration after double faulting to give Langrova her first break of the final set.

"The wind was a problem, especially for the first serve," agreed Langrova who likes to listen to Madonna tapes on a personal stereo when she comes off court.

Rival fans in harmony at disaster match replay

Liverpool supporters back team's decision to play



A young Forest fan leans in the open gate of the crowd fencing at Old Trafford. (Reuters wirephoto)

MANCHESTER, England, May 8. (Reuters): Rival English soccer fans joined in harmony yesterday as Liverpool and Nottingham Forest replayed a match interrupted last month by a disaster that claimed 95 lives.

A crowd of only 38,000 — 13,000 below capacity — watched Liverpool sweep to a 3-1 victory in a FA Cup semifinal overshadowed by memories of Britain's worst sporting tragedy.

At Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium, Nottingham supporters passed a 50-metre ticket tape strip in red and white — the colours of both clubs — to Liverpool supporters in adjacent terracing.

The whole crowd joined to sing "You'll Never Walk Alone," the Liverpool club anthem.

Three weeks ago, 95 Liverpool fans were crushed to death when late-arriving spectators swept through a stadium gate and surged on to a crowded terrace in Sheffield, northern England.

Thousands of tickets remained unsold for yesterday's rescheduled match in Manchester, which began with a minute's

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